

# THE NEWGATE CALENDAR,

IMPROVED;

BEING

INTERESTING MEMOIRS

OF

## NOTORIOUS CHARACTERS,

Who have been convicted of Offences

*AGAINST THE LAWS OF ENGLAND,*

DURING THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY; AND CONTINUED TO THE  
PRESENT TIME, CHRONOLOGICALLY ARRANGED;

COMPRISING

Traitors,	Highwaymen,	Pickpockets,
Murderers,	Footpads,	Fraudulent Bankrupts,
Incendiaries,	Housebreakers,	Money Droppers,
Ravishers,	Rioters,	Impostors,
Pirates,	Extortioners,	And Thieves of every
Mutineers,	Sharppers,	Description.
Coiners,	Forgerers,	

AND

*Containing a number of interesting Cases never before published:*

WITH

Occasional Remarks on Crimes and Punishments, Original Anecdotes,  
Moral Reflections and Observations on particular Cases;  
Explanations of the Criminal Laws, the  
Speeches, Confessions, and

LAST EXCLAMATIONS OF SUFFERERS.

*To which is added*

A CORRECT ACCOUNT OF THE VARIOUS MODES OF PUNISHMENT  
OF CRIMINALS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD.

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BY GEORGE THEODORE WILKINSON, ESQ.

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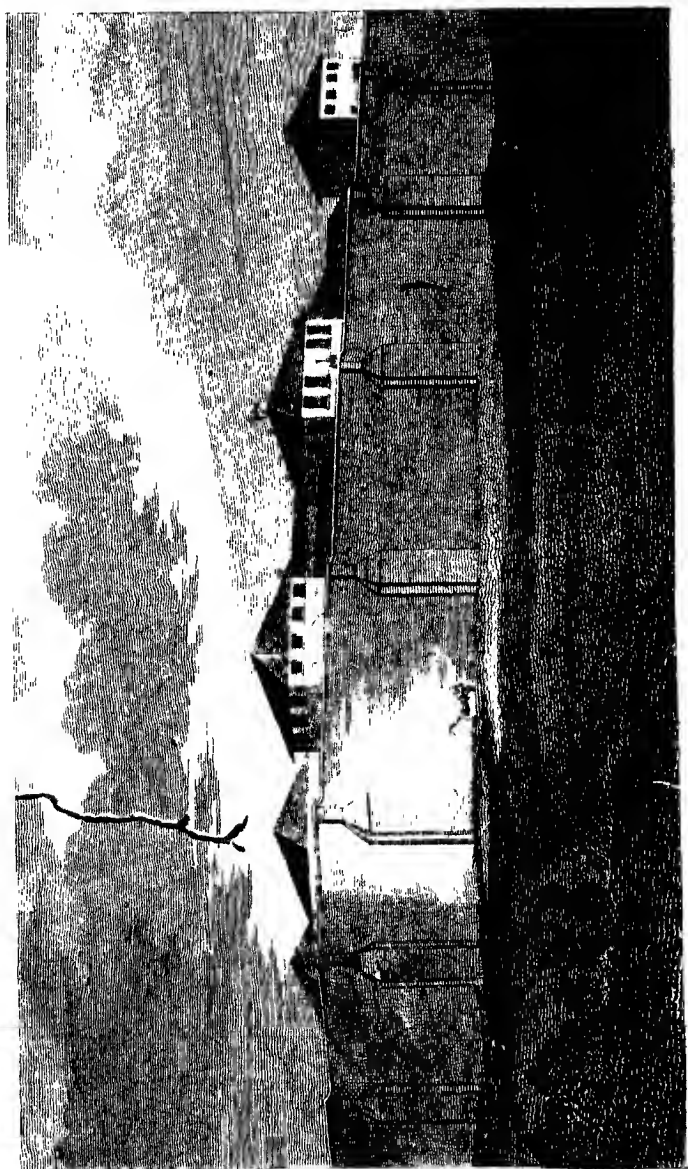
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OLD BATH FIELDS PRISON.

THE  
NEWGATE CALENDAR

• IMPROVED.

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MARY YOUNG, *alias* JENNY DIVER,

(THE HEAD OF A NUMEROUS GANG OF THIEVES OF  
EVERY DESCRIPTION, AND MAY BE CALLED THE FE-  
MALE MACHEATH.)

*Executed at Tyburn, March 18, 1740.*

WE have seldom heard of any more skilled in the various arts of imposition and robbery, than Mary Young. Her depredations, executed with undaunted courage, and artful deception, are surpassed by none which we have, as yet, met with.

Mary Young was born in the north of Ireland; her parents were in indigent circumstances; and dying while she was in a state of infancy, she had no recollection of them.

At about ten years of age she was taken into the family of an old gentlewoman, who had known her father and mother, and who caused her to be instructed in reading, writing, and needle-work; and in the latter she attained to a proficiency unusual to girls of her age.

Soon after she had arrived to her fifteenth year, a young man, servant to a gentleman who lived in the neighbourhood, made pretensions of love to her; but the old lady being apprized of his views, declared that she would not consent to their marriage, and positively forbid him to repeat his visits at her house.

Notwithstanding the great care and tenderness

which she was treated, Mary formed the resolution of deserting her generous benefactor, and of directing her course towards the metropolis of England; and the only obstacle to this design was, the want of money towards her support till she could follow some honest means of earning a subsistence.

She had no strong prepossession in favour of the young man, who had made a declaration of love to her; but she, determining to make his passion subservient to the purpose she had conceived, promised to marry him on condition of his taking her to London. He joyfully embraced this proposal, and immediately engaged for a passage in a vessel bound for Liverpool.

A short time before the vessel was to sail, the young man robbed his master of a gold watch and eighty guineas, and then joined the companion of his flight, who was already on board the ship, vainly imagining that his infamously-acquired booty would contribute to the happiness he should enjoy with his expected bride. The ship arrived at the destined port in two days: and Mary being indisposed in consequence of her voyage, her companion hired a lodging in the least frequented part of the town, where they lived a short time in the character of man and wife, but avoiding all intercourse with their neighbours; the man being apprehensive that measures would be pursued for apprehending him.

Mary being restored to health, they agreed for a passage in a waggon that was to set out for London in a few days. On the day preceding that fixed for their departure, they accidentally called at a public-house, and the man being observed by a messenger dispatched in pursuit of him from Ireland, he was immediately taken into custody. Mary, who a few hours before his apprehension, had received ten guineas from him, voluntarily accompanied him to the mayor's house, where he acknowledged himself guilty of the crime alleged against him, but without giving the least intimation that she was an accessory

in his guilt. He being committed to prison, Mary sent him all his clothes, and part of the money she had received from him, and the next day took her place in the waggon for London. In a short time her companion was sent to Ireland, where he was tried, and condemned to suffer death, but his sentence was changed to that of transportation.

Soon after her arrival in London, Mary contracted an acquaintance with one of her country-women named Anne Murphy, by whom she was invited to partake of a lodging in Long Acre. Here she endeavoured to obtain a livelihood by her needle, but not being able to procure sufficient employment, her situation in a little time became truly deplorable.

Murphy intimated to her, that she could introduce her to a mode of life that would prove exceedingly lucrative; adding, that the most profound secrecy was required. The other expressed an anxious desire of learning the means of extricating herself from the difficulties under which she laboured, and made a solemn declaration that she would never divulge what Murphy should communicate. In the evening, Murphy introduced her to a number of men and women, assembled in a kind of club, near St. Giles's. These people gained their living by cutting off women's pockets, and stealing watches, &c. from men in the avenues of the theatres, and at other places of public resort; and, on the recommendation of Murphy, they admitted Mary a member of the society.

After Mary's admission, they dispersed, in order to pursue their illegal occupation; and the booty obtained that night consisted of 80*l.* in cash, and a valuable gold watch. As Mary was not yet acquainted with the art of thieving, she was not admitted to an equal share of the night's produce, but it was agreed that she should have ten guineas. She now regularly applied two hours every day in qualifying herself for an expert thief, by attending to the instructions of experienced practitioners; and, in a

short time, she was distinguished as the most ingenious and successful adventurer of the whole gang.

A young fellow of genteel appearance, who was a member of the club, was singled out by Mary as the partner of her bed; and they cohabited for a considerable time as husband and wife.

In a few months our heroine became so expert in her profession, as to acquire great consequence among her associates, who, as we conceive, distinguished her by the appellation of Jenny Diver, on account of her remarkable dexterity; and by that name we shall call her in the succeeding pages of this narrative.

Jenny, accompanied by one of her female accomplices, joined the crowd at the entrance of a place of worship in the Old Jewry, where a popular divine was to preach, and observing a young gentleman with a diamond ring on his finger, she held out her hand, which he kindly received in order to assist her; and at this juncture she contrived to get possession of the ring, without the knowledge of the owner; after which she slipped behind her companion, and heard the gentleman say, that as there was no probability of gaining admittance, he would return. Upon his leaving the meeting he missed his ring, and mentioned his loss to the persons who were near him, adding, that he suspected it to be stolen by a woman whom had endeavoured to assist in the crowd: but as the thief was unknown, she escaped.

The above robbery was considered as such an extraordinary proof of Jenny's superior address, that her associates determined to allow her an equal share of all their booties, even though she was not present when they were obtained.

In a short time after the above exploit, she procured a pair of false hands and arms to be made; and concealing her real ones under her clothes, she put something beneath her stays to make herself appear as if she was in a state of pregnancy, she

repaired on a Sunday evening to the place of worship abovementioned, in a sedan chair, one of the gang going before, to procure a seat among the gentlemanly part of the congregation, and another attending in the character of a footman.

Jenny being seated between two elderly ladies, each of whom had a gold watch by her side, she conducted herself with great seeming devotion; but when the service was nearly concluded, she seized the opportunity, when the ladies were standing up, of stealing their watches, which she delivered to an accomplice in an adjoining pew. The devotions being ended, the congregation were preparing to depart, when the ladies discovered their loss, and a violent clamour ensued: one of the injured parties exclaimed, that "her watch must have been taken either by the devil or the pregnant woman;" on which the other said, she "could vindicate the pregnant lady, whose hands, she was sure, had not been removed from her lap during the whole time of her being in the pew."

Flushed with the success of the above adventure, our heroine was determined to pursue her good fortune; and as another sermon was to be preached the same evening, she adjourned to an adjacent public-house, where, without either pain or difficulty, she soon reduced the protuberance of her waist, and having entirely changed her dress, she returned to the meeting, where she had not remained long before she picked a gentleman's pocket of a gold watch, with which she escaped unsuspected.

Her accomplices also, were industrious and successful; for on a division of the booty obtained this evening, they each received thirty guineas. Jenny had now obtained an ascendancy over the whole gang, who, conscious of her superior skill in the arts of thieving, came to a resolution of yielding an exact obedience to her directions.

Jenny again assumed the appearance of a pregnant woman, and, attended by an accomplice, as a

footman, went towards St. James's Park, on a day when the king was going to the House of Lords, and there being a great number of persons between the Park and Spring-gardens, she purposely slipped down, and was instantly surrounded by many of both sexes, who were emulous to afford her assistance; but affecting to be in violent pain, she intimated to them that she was desirous of remaining on the ground till she should be somewhat recovered. As she expected, the crowd increased, and her pretended footman and her accomplice were so industrious as to obtain two diamond girdle-buckles, a gold watch, a gold snuff-box, and two purses, containing altogether upwards of forty guineas.

The girdle-buckles, watch, and snuff-box, were the following day advertised, and a considerable reward was offered, and a promise given that no questions should be asked the party who should restore the property. Anne Murphy offered to carry the things to the place mentioned in the advertisement, saying, the reward offered exceeded what they would produce by sale: but to this Jenny objected, observing, that she might be traced, and the association utterly ruined. She called a meeting of the whole gang, and informed them that she was of opinion that it would be more prudent to sell the things, even at one half of their real value, than to return them to the owners for the sake of the reward; as, if they pursued the latter measure, they would subject themselves to great hazard of being apprehended. Her associates coincided entirely in Jenny's sentiments: and the property was taken to Duke's-place, and there sold to a Jew.

Two of the gang being confined to their lodgings by illness, Jenny, and the man with whom she cohabited, generally went in company in search of adventures. They went together to Burr-street, Wapping, and observing a genteel house, the man, who acted as Jenny's footman, knocked at the door, and saying that his mistress was on a sudden taken

extremely ill, begged she might be admitted. This was readily complied with, and while the mistress of the house and her maid-servant were gone up stairs for such things as they imagined would afford relief to the supposed sick woman, she opened a drawer, and stole sixty guineas; and after this, while the mistress was holding a smelling-bottle to her nose, she picked her pocket of a purse, which, however, did not contain money to any considerable amount. In the mean time the pretended footman, who had been ordered into the kitchen, stole six silver table spoons, a pepper-box, and a salt-cellar. Jenny, pretending to be somewhat recovered, expressed the most grateful acknowledgments to the lady, and, saying she was the wife of a capital merchant in Thames-street, invited her, in the most pressing terms, to dinner on an appointed day, and then went away in a hackney-coach, which by her order had been called to the door by her pretended servant.

She practised a variety of felonies of a similar nature in different parts of the metropolis and its environs; but the particulars of the above transactions being inserted in the newspapers, people were so effectually cautioned, that our adventurer was under the necessity of employing her invention upon the discovery of other methods of committing depredations on the public.

The parties, whose illness we have mentioned being recovered, it was resolved that the whole gang should go to Bristol, in search of adventures during the fair, which is held in that city every summer; but being unacquainted with the place, they deemed it good policy to admit into their society a man who had long subsisted there by villainous practices.

Being arrived at the place of destination, Jenny and Anne Murphy assumed the characters of merchant's wives, the new member and another of the gang appeared as country traders, and our heroine's favourite retained his former character of footman.

They took lodgings at different inns, and agreed that, if any of them should be apprehended, the others should endeavour to procure their release by appearing to their characters, and representing them as people of reputation in London. They had arrived to such a proficiency in their illegal occupation, that they were almost certain of accomplishing every scheme they suggested; and when it was inconvenient to make use of words, they were able to convey their meaning to each other by winks, nods, and other intimations.

Being one day in the fair, they observed a west country clothier giving a sum of money to his servant, and heard him direct the man to deposit it in a bureau. They followed the servant, and one of them fell down before him, expecting that he would also fall, and that, as there was a great crowd, the money might be easily secured. Though the man fell into the channel, they were not able to obtain their expected booty, and therefore they had recourse to the following stratagem: One of the gang asked whether his master had not lately ordered him to carry home a sum of money; to which the other replied in the affirmative. The sharper then told him he must return to his master who had purchased some goods, and waited to pay for them.

The countryman followed him to Jenny's lodging, and being introduced to her, she desired him to be seated, saying, his master was gone on some business in the neighbourhood, but had left orders for him to wait till his return. She urged him to drink a glass of wine, but the poor fellow repeatedly declined her offers with awkward simplicity; the pretended footman having taught him to believe her a woman of great wealth and consequence. However, her encouraging solicitations conquered his bashfulness, and he drank till he became intoxicated. Being conducted into another apartment he was soon fast locked in the arms of sleep, and while in that situation he was robbed of the money he had

received from his master, which proved to be 100*l*. They were no sooner in possession of the cash than they discharged the demand of the inn-keeper, and set out in the first stage for London.

Soon after their return to town, Jenny and her associates went to London-bridge in the dusk of the evening, and observing a lady standing at a door to avoid the carriages, a number of which were passing, one of the men went up to her, and under pretence of giving her assistance, seized both her hands, which he held till his accomplices had rifled her pockets of a gold snuff-box, a silver case, containing a set of instruments, and thirty guineas in cash.

On the following day, as Jenny and an accomplice, in the character of a footman, were walking through Change-alley, she picked a gentleman's pocket of a bank-note for 200*l*. for which she received 130*l*. from a Jew, with whom the gang had very extensive connexions.

Our heroine now hired a real footman, and her favourite, who had long acted in that character, assumed the appearance of a gentleman. She hired lodgings in the neighbourhood of Covent-garden, that she might more conveniently attend the theatres. She proposed to her associates to reserve a tenth part of the general produce for the support of such of the gang as might, through illness, be rendered incapable of following their iniquitous occupations: and to this they readily assented.

Jenny dressed herself in an elegant manner, and went to the theatre one evening when the king was to be present; and during the performance she attracted the particular attention of a young gentleman of fortune from Yorkshire, who declared, in the most passionate terms, that she had made an absolute conquest of his heart, and earnestly solicited the favour of attending her home. She at first declined a complance, saying she was newly married, and that the appearance of a stranger might alarm her husband. At length she yielded to

his entreaty, and they went together in a hackney-coach, which set the young gentleman down in the neighbourhood where Jenny lodged, after he had obtained an appointment to visit her in a few days, when she said her husband would be out of town.

Upon Jenny's joining her companions, she informed them that while she remained at the play-house, she was only able to steal a gold snuff-box; and they appeared to be much dissatisfied on account of her ill success: but their good humour returned upon learning the circumstances of the adventure with the young gentleman, which they had no doubt would prove exceedingly profitable.

The day of appointment being arrived, two of the gang appeared equipped in elegant liveries, and Anne Murphy appeared as waiting-maid. The gentleman came in the evening, having a gold-headed cane in his hand, a sword with a gold hilt by his side, and wearing a gold watch in his pocket, and a diamond ring on his finger.

Being introduced to her bed-chamber, she contrived to steal her lover's ring; and he had not been many minutes undressed before Anne Murphy rapped at the door, which being opened, she said, with an appearance of the utmost consternation, that her master was returned from the country. Jenny, affecting to be under a violent agitation of spirits, desired the gentleman to cover himself entirely with the bed-clothes, saying she would convey his apparel into another room, so that if her husband came there, nothing would appear to awaken his suspicion: adding that, under pretence of indisposition, she would prevail upon her husband to sleep in another bed, and then return to the arms of her lover.

The clothes being removed, a consultation was held, when it was agreed by the gang that they should immediately pack up all their moveables, and decamp with their booty, which, exclusive of the cane, watch, sword, and ring, amounted to an hundred guineas.

The amorous youth waited in a state of the utmost impatience till the morning, when he rang the bell, and brought the people of the house to the chamber-door, but they could not gain admittance, as the fair fugitive had turned the lock, and taken away the key; when the door was forced open the gentleman represented in what manner he had been treated; but the people of the house were deaf to his expostulations, and threatened to circulate the adventure throughout the town, unless he would indemnify them for the loss they had sustained. Rather than hazard the exposure of his character, he agreed to discharge the debt Jenny had contracted; and dispatched a messenger for clothes and money, that he might take leave of a house of which he had sufficient reason to regret having been an inhabitant.

Our heroine's share of the produce of the above adventure amounted to 70%. This infamous association was now become so notorious a pest to society, that they judged it necessary to leave the metropolis where they were apprehensive that they could not long remain concealed from justice. They practised a variety of stratagems with great success in different parts of the country: but, upon revisiting London, Jenny was committed to Newgate, on a charge of having picked a gentleman's pocket: for which she was sentenced to transportation.

She remained in the above prison near four months, during which time she employed a considerable sum in the purchase of stolen effects. When she went on board the transport-vessel, she shipped a quantity of goods, nearly sufficient to load a waggon. The property she possessed ensured her great respect, and every possible convenience and accommodation during the voyage; and on her arrival in Virginia she disposed of her goods, and for some time lived in great splendour and elegance.

She soon found that America was a country where she could expect but little emolument from the

practices she had so successfully followed in England; and therefore she employed every art that she was mistress of to ingratiate herself into the esteem of a young gentleman who was preparing to embark on board a vessel bound for the port of London. He became much enamoured of her, and brought her to England: but while the ship lay at Gravesend, she robbed him of all the property she could get into her possession, and, pretending an indisposition, intimated a desire of going on shore, in which her admirer acquiesced: but she was no sooner on land than she made a precipitate retreat.

She now travelled through several parts of the country, and by her usual wicked practices obtained many considerable sums. At length she returned to London, but was not able to find her former accomplices.

She now frequented the Royal Exchange, the Theatres, London-bridge, and other places of public resort, and committed innumerable depredations on the public. Being detected in picking a gentleman's pocket upon London-bridge, she was taken before a magistrate, to whom she declared that her name was Jane Webb, and under that name she was committed to Newgate.

On her trial, a gentleman, who had detected her in the very act of picking the prosecutor's pocket deposed, that a person had applied to him, offering 50*l.* on condition that he should not appear in support of the prosecution: and a lady swore, that on the day she committed the offence for which she stood indicted, she saw her pick the pockets of more than twenty different people. The record of her former conviction was not produced in court; and therefore she was arraigned for privately stealing; and on the clearest evidence the Jury pronounced her guilty. The property being valued at less than one shilling, she was sentenced to transportation.

A twelvemonth had not elapsed before she returned from transportation a second time; and, on

her arrival in London, she renewed her former practices.

A lady going from Sherborne-lane to Walbrooke, was accosted by a man, who took her hand, seemingly as if to assist her in crossing some planks that were placed over the channel for the convenience of passengers: but he squeezed her fingers with so much force as to give her great pain, and in the mean time Jenny picked her pocket of thirteen shillings and a penny. The gentlewoman, conscious of being robbed, seized the thief by the gown, and she was immediately conducted to the comptroller. She was examined the next day by the lord-mayor, who committed her to Newgate, and at the ensuing sessions, she was tried on an indictment for privately stealing, and the jury brought in their verdict, "guilty;" in consequence of which she received sentence of death.

After conviction she seemed sincerely to repent of the course of iniquity in which she had so long persisted, punctually attending prayers in the chapel, and employing great part of her time in private devotions. The day preceding that on which she was executed, she sent for the woman who nursed her child, then about three years old, and after informing her that there was a person who would pay for the infant's maintenance, earnestly entreated that it might be carefully instructed in the duties of religion, and guarded from all temptations to wickedness, and then, after acknowledging that she had long been a daring offender against the laws, both of God and man, she entreated the woman to pray for the salvation of her soul; she then took her leave, apparently deeply impressed with the sentiments of contrition.

On the following morning she appeared to be in a serene state of mind: but being brought into the press-yard, the executioner approached to put the halter about her, when her fortitude abated: but in a short time her spirits were again tolerably composed.

She was conveyed to Tyburn in a mourning-coach, being attended by a clergyman, to whom she declared her firm belief in all the principles of the Protestant religion; and at the place of execution she employed a considerable time in fervent prayer. Her remains were, by her particular desire, interred in St. Pancras church-yard.

We should always allow due force to the advice of our friends; and if the conduct that is recommended to us points to happiness, what folly is it to neglect it, in order to gratify an inclination, the indulgence of which will yield but a temporary gratification, and may prove the source of lasting sorrow.

Disgusted at the prudent conduct of the old lady, in discountenancing her amour with the footman, the unfortunate young woman, whose memoirs are recorded in the preceding narrative, resolved to desert her benevolent patroness, from whom she had experienced all the tenderness of maternal affection: and this act of indiscretion led to those crimes which were followed by an untimely and ignominious death. Hence, then, it appears, that we cannot employ too much solicitude for avoiding a conduct that conscience cannot entirely approve.

## WILLIAM DUELL,

*Was executed for murder; and came to life again while preparing for dissection in Surgeon's Hall.*

WE are not acquainted with the particulars of this man's crime and trial, but think the following short account worthy of insertion, on account of the remarkable circumstance of his restoration to life after execution.

This man met a better fate than a criminal in a similar situation in Germany. The body of a notorious malefactor was stretched out upon the table,

before the body of German surgeons, for dissection. The operator, in placing it in a proper position, felt life in it; whereupon he thus addressed his brethren of the faculty, assembled to witness the operation :

“ I am pretty certain, Gentlemen, from the warmth of the subject, and the flexibility of the limbs, that by a proper degree of attention and care, the vital heat would return, and life, in consequence take place. But, when it is considered what a rascal we should again have among us, that he was hanged for so cruel a murder, and, that should we restore him to life, he would kill somebody else.—I say, gentlemen, all these things considered, it is my opinion, that we had better proceed in the dissection.” Whether this harangue, or the fear of being disappointed in so sumptuous a surgical banquet as a dissection, operated on their consciences, we cannot tell; but certain it is, they nodded accordance; and the operator, on the signal, plunged his knife into the breast of the culprit, thereby at once precluding all dread of future assassinations—all hopes of future repentance.

William Duell was convicted of occasioning the death of Sarah Griffin, at Acton, by robbing and ill-treating her, and having suffered the sentence of the law, Nov 24, 1740, at Tyburn, with Thomas Clock, Wm. Meers, Margery Stanton, and Eleanor Munoman, (who had been convicted of several burglaries and felonies,) he was brought to Surgeon's Hall, to be dissected : but after he was stripped and laid on the board, and one of the servants was washing him in order to cut him up, he perceived life in him, and found his breath to come quicker and quicker, on which a surgeon bled him, and in two hours he was able to sit up in his chair. In the evening he was again committed to Newgate, and his sentence which might have been again inflicted was changed to transportation.

## GILBERT LANGLEY.

*A man of superior talents and education, sentenced to death ; which was remitted for transportation.*

GILBERT LANGLEY was born of Roman Catholic parents in London, where his father was an eminent goldsmith, and who sent his son to the seat of his grandfather in Derbyshire, when he was only three years of age.

Having continued in this situation four years, his mother's anxiety induced her to fetch him home ; soon after which he was entered in the school of the Charter-house, where he soon became a tolerably good classical scholar.

The father now wished to send his son abroad for further education, and that he might not fail of being brought up a strict Catholic ; but this was warmly opposed by the mother, through tenderness to her child ; but her death soon left the father to act as he pleased.

The prior of the Benedictine convent at Douay being in London, Langley's father agreed for his board and education, and committed him to the care of his new master, with whom he proceeded to Dover, sailed for Calais, and travelled thence to St. Omers, and on the following day reached Douay, where young Langley was examined by the prior and fellows of the college, and admitted of the school.

At the end of three years he became a tolerable master of the French language, exclusive of his other literary acquirements ; so that, at the Christmas following, he was chosen king of the class, which is a distinction bestowed on one of the best scholars, whose business it is to regulate the public entertainments of the school.

It is the custom at Douay for officers to attend at the gates of the town, to detect any persons bring-

ing in contraband liquors, because the merchants of the place pay a large duty on them, which duty is annually farmed by the highest bidder.

During the Christmas holidays, Langley and three of his school-fellows quitted the town, to purchase a small quantity of brandy at an under price; but being observed by a soldier, who saw their bottles filled, he informed the officers of the affair; the consequence of which was, that the young gentlemen were stopped, and the liquor found, hid under their cassocks. They offered money for their release; but it was refused, and they were conducted to the house of the Farmer-general.

At the instant of their arrival, two Franciscan friars seeing them said it was illegal to take students before the civil magistrates, because the superior of their own college was accountable for their conduct.

Hereupon they were taken home to the prior; and the Farmer-general making his demand of the customary fine, the prior thought it extravagant, and refused to pay it: but at length the matter was settled by arbitration.

In the Catholic colleges, the students live in a very meagre manner during the season of Lent, having little to subsist on but bread and sour wine; a circumstance that frequently tempts them to supply their wants by acts of irregularity.

At this season Langley and five of his companions, oppressed by the calls of hunger, determined to make an attack on the kitchen; but at the instant they had forced open the door, they were overheard by the servants, the consequence of which was, that many furious blows were exchanged by the contending parties.

On the following day the delinquents were summoned to attend the prior, who was so incensed at this outrage, against the good order of the society, that he declared they should be expelled as soon as a consistory of the monks could be held.

But when the consistory assembled, they resolved to pardon all the offenders on acknowledging their faults, and promising not to renew them, except one, named Brown, who had twice knocked down the shoemaker of the college, because he had called out to alarm the prior.

The young gentlemen, chagrined at losing their associate, determined to be revenged on some one at least of the servants who had given evidence against them; and after revolving many schemes, they determined that the man who lighted the fires should be the object of their vengeance, because he had struck several of them during the rencounter.

This being resolved on, they disguised themselves, and went to a wood-house adjacent to the college, and being previously provided with rods, they waited till the man came with his wheel-barrow to fetch wood, when one of them going behind him, threw a cloak over his head, which being immediately tied round his neck, the rest stripped him, and flogged him in the most severe manner, while he in vain, and unheard, called for assistance, our heroes having taken care to shut the door of the wood-house.

The flagellation was just ended when the bell rung for the students to attend their evening exercise; on which they left the unhappy victim of their revenge, and repaired to the public hall.

In the mean time the poor sufferer ran into the cloysters, exclaiming, "Le Diable! Le Diable!" as if he had really thought the devil had tormented him: and hence he ran to the kitchen, where he recounted the adventure to his fellow-servants, who dressed his wounds, carried him to bed, and gave him something to nourish him.

A suspicion arising that the students had been the authors of this calamity to the poor fellow, the servants communicated the circumstances of it to the prior, who promised his endeavours to find out and punish the delinquents; and with this view

went into the hall, with a look at once penetrating and indignant: but the young gentlemen having bound themselves by an oath, no discovery could be made.

Young Langley, having distinguished himself by his attention to literature for the space of two years, the monks began to consider him as one who would make a valuable acquisition to their society, for which reason they treated him with singular respect and at length prevailed upon him to agree to enter into the fraternity, if his father's consent could be obtained.

As Langley was in no want of money, he frequently went into the town, to habituate himself into the manners of the people, and to observe their customs. Thursday being a holiday, he and one of his school-fellows named Meynel, asked the prior permission to walk on the ramparts, which being denied, they went out without leave, and repairing to a tavern, drank wine till they were intoxicated.

In this condition they went to the ramparts, where having been for some time the laughing-stock of the company, they went home to bed. Being missed at evening prayers, some of the other students apologised for their absence, by saying they were ill; and the excuse was very readily admitted: but in a few days afterwards a gentleman called on the prior, and told him what a ridiculous figure his students had made on the ramparts.

Incensed at this violation of their duty, the prior sent for them to his chamber, and gave orders that they should be flogged with great severity. This indignity had such an effect on the mind of Langley, that he grew reserved and morose, and would have declined all his studies had not one of the monks, called Father Howard, restored him to his good humour by his indulgent treatment, and persuaded him to pay his usual attention to literature.

Father Howard's considerate conduct had such an

effect on Langley, that he spent the greater part of his time with that gentleman, who instructed him in the principles of logic, and was about to initiate him in those of philosophy, when his father wrote a letter requiring him to return to his native country.

The society being unwilling to lose one whom they thought would become a valuable member, the prior wrote to England, requesting that the youth might be permitted to complete his education; but the father insisted on his return.

Hereupon the young gentleman left the college, and proceeding by the way of St. Omer's, reached Calais in two days. As the wind was contrary, it was some days longer before the company embarked for England, when, instead of putting into Dover, the vessel came round to the Thames, and the passengers were landed at Gravesend.

Langley having spent all his money at Calais, now affected an air of unconcern, saying that he had no English money in his possession, from his having been so long abroad; on which one of the company lent him money, and on the following day he arrived at his father's house in London.

When he had reposed himself some days after his journey, the father desired him to make choice of some profession; on which he mentioned his inclination to study either physic or law: but the old gentleman, who had no good opinion of either of these professions, persuaded him to follow his own trade of a goldsmith.

For the present, however, he was placed at an academy, in Chancery-lane, that he might be instructed in those branches of knowledge requisite for a tradesman; but becoming acquainted with some young gentlemen of the law, he found that his father's allowance of pocket-money was insufficient for his use; and being unwilling that his new acquaintance should think that he was deficient in cash, he purloined small sums from a drawer in his father's shop, and when he did not find any money

there, stole some pieces of broken gold, which he disposed of to the Jews.

Mr. Langley the elder, having sent his son with some plate to the house of a gentleman in Grosvenor-square, the youth saw a beautiful woman go into a shop opposite a public-house; on which he went into the latter, and enquiring after her, found she had gone to her own lodgings. Having ascertained this, he delivered his plate, and formed a resolution of visiting the lady on the Sunday following.

When the Sunday came, the old gentleman went out, and, as the son imagined, to smoke his pipe at an adjacent public-house; and in the mean time the son stole seven guineas from three different bags, that his father might not discover the robbery, and immediately repaired to the lodgings of the lady whom he had seen.

From her lodgings they went to a tavern, where they continued till the following day, having no idea of a detection: but it happened that Mr. Langley, senior, instead of going to the public-house as usual, watched the son to the tavern abovementioned.

On the following day the father interrogated the youth respecting his preceding conduct; and particularly asked where he had been the day before. The young fellow said he had been at church, where he met with some acquaintance, who prevailed on him to go to the tavern.

The father, knowing the falsehood of his tale, corrected his son in a severe manner, and forbade him to dine at his table till his conduct should be reformed. Thus obliged to associate with the servants, young Langley became soon too intimate with the kitchen-maid, and robbed his father to buy such things as he thought would be acceptable to her.

Among other things he purchased her a pair of shoes laced with gold, which he was presenting to her in the parlour, at the very moment that his father knocked at the door. The girl instantly

quitted the room ; but the old gentleman interrogating the son respecting the shoes, the latter averred that a lady, who said she had bought them in the neighbourhood, desired leave to deposit them at their house till the following day.

After this the father permitted the son to dine with him as usual ; but it was not long before he caught him in a too intimate a connection with the maid servant in the kitchen ; on which the girl was dismissed from her service, and Mr. Langley threatened to disinherit his son, unless he would reform his conduct.

A middle-aged woman of grave appearance was now hired as servant ; but the evil complained of was far from being cured, as an intimacy between her and the young gentleman was soon discovered by the father.

It was not long after the servant girl abovementioned had been discharged before she swore herself pregnant by the son : on which he was taken into custody by a warrant ; the consequence of which was that the father paid 15*l.* to compromise the affair ; after which he received the son to his favour, and forgave all the errors of his former conduct.

The death of the old gentleman put his son in possession of a considerable fortune, exclusive of a settled good trade ; and for the first year he applied himself so closely to business that he made a neat profit of 700*l.* : but he did not long continue this course of industry ; for having formerly made connections with women of ill-fame, particularly in the purlieus of Drury-lane, he now renewed his visits to those wretched victims to, and punishers of, the vices of men.

A man of genteel appearance, named Gray, having ordered plate of Langley to the amount of 100*l.* invited him to a tavern to drink. In the course of the conversation, the stranger said he had dealt with his late father, and would introduce him to a lady

who had 30,000*l.* to her fortune. This was only a scheme to defraud Langley, who delivered the plate, and took a draft for the money on a vintner in Bartholomew-close; but when he went to demand payment the vintner was removed.

On the following day the vintner's wife went to Langley, and informed him that Gray had defrauded her husband of 450*l.*; and Langley being of a humane disposition, interested himself so far in behalf of the unfortunate man, that a letter of license for three years was granted him by his creditors.

Langley now took out an action against Gray, but was not able to find him; when one day he was accosted by a man in Fleet-street, who asked him to step into a public-house, and he would tell him where he should meet with the defrauder. Langley complying with the proposal, the stranger said he would produce Gray within an hour, if the other would give him a guinea; which being done, the stranger went out, but returned no more.

Exasperated by this circumstance, which seems to have been a contrivance of one of Gray's accomplices, Mr. Langley employed an attorney, who soon found the delinquent, against whom an action was taken out, in consequence of which he was confined several years in the Marshalsea.

Langley now became a sportsman on the turf at Newmarket, under the instruction of a vintner in Holborn, whose niece entered into his service; but who soon fell a victim to his unbounded passion for the sex.

Langley becoming acquainted with some young fellows in the Temple, three of them, and four women of the town, went with him to Greenwich, where they gave the ladies the slip, and took a boat to London; but the women pursuing them, overtook them in the river, and attempting to board their boat, afforded great diversion to the spectators: but our adventurers' watermen rowing hard, they

reached the Temple, and concealed themselves in one of the chambers, a few minutes before the ladies landed.

Soon after this Langley made another excursion to Greenwich to visit a lady and gentleman, who having a remarkably handsome servant maid, our adventurer found means to seduce her; the consequence of which was that she became pregnant, and made repeated applications to him for support: whereupon he gave her a considerable sum of money, and heard no more of her from that period.

Thus living in a continual round of dissipation, his friends recommended matrimony as the most likely step to reclaim him; in consequence of which he married a young lady named Brown, with a handsome fortune.

He had not been long married before he determined to borrow all the cash and jewels he could, and decamp with the property. As he had the reputation of being in ample circumstances, he found no difficulty in getting credit for many articles of value, with which he and his wife embarked for Holland: and in the mean time his friends took out a commission of bankruptcy against him.

When Langley came to Rotterdam, he applied to the States General for protection, in apprehension of being pursued by his creditors; but the States not being then sitting, the creditors made application to Lord Chesterfield, then ambassador at the Hague, which frustrated his intention.

In the interim his creditors found out his lodgings in a village near Rotterdam; but he eluded their search, leaving his wife with 400*l.* in the care of a friend; but did not tell her the place of his retreat, to prevent any possibility of a discovery.

After skulking from place to place, he went back to Rotterdam, and surrendered to his creditors; but found that his wife was gone with an English captain to Antwerp. On his arrival in England he

was examined before the commissioners, and treated with the customary lenity shewn to unfortunate tradesmen in such circumstances.

After his affairs were adjusted he sailed to Barbadoes, where he soon contracted so many debts that he was glad to take his passage to Port-Royal, in Jamaica: and soon after his arrival there he went to visit a planter at some distance, who would have engaged him as a clerk.

Langley told the planter that he owed twenty dollars at Port-Royal, for which he had left his chest as a security. The gentleman instantly giving him the money to redeem it, he went to Port Royal, assumed the name of Englefield, embarked on board a man of war as midshipman, and came to England, where the ship was paid off at the expiration of six months.

Taking lodgings at Plymouth, he paid his addresses to a young lady, whom he might have married, with the consent of her father; but being then in an ill state of health, he pretended to have received a summons from his friends in London, to repair immediately to that city on an important affair; but that, as soon as it was adjusted, he would return, and conclude the marriage.

On his arrival in town, he sent for a man who had formerly lived with his father, from whom he learnt that his creditors had not made any dividend under the bankruptcy, and were engaged in a law-suit respecting a part of the property. This faithful old servant of his father told him that his wife had retired to the North of England: and, giving him money, recommended it to him to lodge privately in Southwark.

This advice he followed; and kept himself retired for some time: but passing through Chancery, he was arrested, and conducted to the Poultry Compter, where he continued many months, during which he was supported by the benevolence of the old servant abovementioned. While in the Compter he made

some very bad connections; and being concerned with some of the prisoners in an attempt to escape, he was removed to Newgate, as a place of greater security.

While in this prison, he fell ill of a disorder, which threatened his life; whereupon his friends discharged the debt for which he had been arrested, and removed him to lodgings, where he soon recovered his health.

Soon afterwards he got recommended to a captain in the Levant trade, with whom he was to have sailed; but an unhappy attachment to a woman of ill fame prevented his being ready to make the voyage.

Langley's friends were chagrined at this fresh instance of his imprudence; and soon afterwards he was arrested, and carried to a spunging-house, where he attempted to dispatch himself by a halter; but the rope breaking, he escaped with life. The bailiff and his wife happening to be now absent, and only two maid servants in the house, Langley made them both drunk, and effecting his escape, crossed the water in the Borough, where he worked some time with a colour-grinder.

Disgusted with a life attended with so much labour, he contracted with the captain of a Jamaica ship, who took him to that island on condition of selling him as a slave; and, on his arrival, sold him to Colonel Hill, who employed him to educate his children: but Langley soon running from his employer went on board a ship bound to England; but was impressed on his arrival in the Downs, put on board a man of war, and carried round to Plymouth.

Langley and another man having deserted from the ship, strolled to London, and took up their residence in a two-penny lodging: but as Langley found no friends to support him, he contracted with one of those persons called crimps, who used to agree with unhappy people to go as slaves to the

colonies. His contract was to sail to Pennsylvania; but while the ship lay in the Thames, he and a weaver from Spitalfields made their escape, and travelling to Canterbury, passed themselves as Protestant refugees.

Going hence to Dover, they embarked for Calais; and after some weeks residence in that place, Langley sailed to Lisbon, where he remained only a short time before he contracted debts, which obliged him to seek another residence, wherefore he went to Malaga in Spain.

His poverty was now extreme; and while he sat melancholy one day by the sea-side, some priests asked him from what country he came. He answered in Latin "From England."

Hereupon they conducted him to a convent, relieved his distresses, and then began to instruct him in the principles of the Roman Catholic religion. Langley disguised his sentiments; and after being apparently made a convert, was recommended as a page to a Spanish lady of distinction.

In this situation he continued several months; but having an affair of gallantry with the niece to the old lady, he was compelled to make a precipitate retreat from a window, and shelter himself in the house of an Irish tailor, who procured a passage for him to Gibraltar, in the first ship that sailed.

On his arrival at Gibraltar, he would have entered into the army; but being refused, because he was not tall enough, his distress compelled him to work as a labourer, in repairing the barraeks; but he soon quitted this business, and officiated as a waiter in the Tennis-Court belonging to the garrison; but it being intimated to the governor that he was a spy, he was lodged in a dungeon, where he remained more than a fortnight.

On obtaining his discharge, he embarked on board a Spanish vessel bound to Barbary with corn. and, on his return to Spain, applied to the monks of a convent, who charitably relieved him, and the

prior agreed to take him a voyage to Santa Cruz: but having no great prospect of pecuniary advantage in this way of life, he went to Oratava, where some English merchants contributed to his support: but he soon sailed to Genoa, as he could get no settled employ at Oratava.

From Genoa the vessel sailed to Cadiz; and Langley being now appointed steward to the captain, in the course of his reading some letters, found one directed to Messrs. Ryan and Mannock; and having been a school-fellow with Mr. Mannock, he requested the captain's permission to go on shore, and was received in the most friendly manner by Mr. Mannock, who offered to serve him in any way within his power; when Langley said that what he wished was a discharge from his present situation.

Hereupon Mannock wrote to the captain desiring him to pay the steward, and discharge him; but this being refused, Langley took a lodging, to which he was recommended by his friend, who desired he would dine daily at his table, till he procured a passage for England. He likewise gave him money and clothes, so as to enable him to appear in the character of a gentleman.

Langley behaved with great regularity for some time; but the season of a carnival advancing, he got into company with a woman of ill fame, with whom he spent the evening; and on his return, was robbed of his hat, wig, and a book, which he had borrowed of his friend.

On the following day, Mr. Mannock saw the book laying at a shop for sale; which chagrined him so much, that he asked Langley for it, who thereupon acknowledged the whole affair; and Mr. Mannock, supposing the woman was privy to the robbery, he took out a warrant against her; by which he recovered his book, which he greatly esteemed.

This matter being adjusted, Langley, by the help of his friends, procured a passage for England; but just when he was going to embark, he met with a

woman, who detained him till the ship had sailed; on which he took a boat, and passed over to St. Luear, where he went on board an English vessel, which brought him to his native country.

On his arrival in London, he found that his creditors, under the bankruptcy, had received ten shillings in the pound, which gave him reason to hope that he should have a sum of money returned to him, with which he proposed to engage in a small way of business; and in that view applied to his wife's mother for her assistance, and also to inform him where he might find his wife; but she positively refused to comply with either request.

Langley now gave himself up to despair, associated with the worst of company, and though he had some money left him at this juncture, he dissipated the whole in the most extravagant manner.

He now made an acquaintance with one Hill, a young fellow who was in similar circumstances; and having agreed to go to Paris together, they walked as far as Dover; but, on their arrival, finding that an embargo had been laid on all vessels in the port, they determined to return to London.

Being now destitute of cash, they demanded a man's money on the highway; but on his saying he had not any, they searched him, and took from him three farthings, which they threw away almost as soon as they had got it; but for this offence they were apprehended on the same day, and being tried at the next assises for Kent, were capitally convicted; but the sentence was changed to transportation for seven years, through the lenity of the judge.

Langley was transported in the month of December, 1740.

## CAPTAIN HENRY SMYTHEE,

*Executed at Dorchester, April 12, 1741, for the murder of the female whom he had seduced.*

HENRY SMYTHEE was brought up to a sea-faring life, and succeeded his father in the command of a large merchant ship, in a foreign trade.

After he had made several voyages, a storm obliged him to put into the harbour of Pool, in Dorsetshire, where he saw a young lady, the daughter of a merchant, to whom he paid his addresses, and was in a short time married. His wife's father dying soon after their marriage, Mr. Smythee declined going any longer to sea, engaged in the mercantile business, and employed his leisure hours in rural diversions.

One day, when out with his gun, he wandered so far from home that he lost his way, and being very hungry, he strolled to a cottage kept by a poor widower, named Ralph Mew, who had an only daughter, equally distinguished by the elegance of her form, and the simplicity of her manners.

Mr. Smythee requested the favour of some food; but the countryman suspecting that he meant to take some undue advantage of him, told him he might be supplied at a public-house a mile distant. Smythee, to convince the countryman that he was no impostor, shewed him a diamond ring, a purse of gold, and his watch; on which he was asked to sit down; and Jane Mew, the daughter, fried some bacon and eggs for him, while her father drew some of his best ale.

After the repast, he recounted some of his adventures in foreign parts; but in the mean time regarded the daughter with an eye of desire, and being struck with her superior charms, resolved to get possession of her, if possible.

On his quitting the house, the old man told him

that if he came that way another time, he should be welcome to any thing in his cottage except his daughter. On the following day he went to the cottage, and gave the old man a tortoise-shell snuff-box, as a compliment for his hospitable behaviour the day before. • •

The old cottager going out, Mr. Smythee paid his warmest addresses to the daughter, to whom he presented some jewels: but she no sooner judged of his design, than she said, "Is it thus, sir, you make returns for my father's hospitality, and my civility? And can you be such a wretch, as to think that my poverty will make me guilty of a dishonourable action."

Saying this she rejected his presents with contempt: while he, struck with the force of what she had urged, remained some time speechless, and then attributed his conduct to the violence of his passion, and offered to make her all the satisfaction in his power, by marriage.

The girl acquainting her father with what had passed, Mr. Smythee was permitted to pay his addresses in an honourable way: but such were his artifice and villainy, that his solemn vows of marriage soon prevailed over the too credulous girl; and her ruin was the consequence.

When the father found that his daughter was pregnant, he died with grief, leaving the unhappy girl a prey to the pungent sorrows of her own mind. Distressed as she was, she wrote to her seducer, but as he took no notice of her letter, she went to Pool, and being directed to his house, the door was opened by Mrs. Smythee, who demanded her business, and said she was the wife of the person for whom she enquired. The poor girl was so shocked to find that Mr. Smythee had a wife, that it was with difficulty she was kept from fainting.

When somewhat recovered, she said that she was with child by Mr. Smythee, who had seduced her

under promise of marriage. Hereupon the wife censured her conduct with unreasonable severity, and threatened that she should be lodged in prison if she did not immediately quit the town.

Leaving the house, the unhappy creature fainted in the street, and was soon surrounded by a number of females, who insulted her with every term of reproach.

When she recovered her senses, she went to a public-house, where she intended to have lodged; but the landlady threatening to send for the beadle, she was obliged to quit the house.

In the interim, Mr. Smythee came to his own house, and was compelled to listen to the reproaches of his wife on the infidelity of his conduct.

After attending to this disagreeable lecture, he went out, and desired a person to call on the young woman, and appoint her to meet him at a place without the town.

The unfortunate girl met him accordingly. What passed between them it is impossible to know; but on the following day she was found with her throat cut, and a bloody knife laying by her. Smythee absconding, it was generally supposed that he had been the murderer; and on his return to Pool, about a month afterwards, he was taken into custody, and lodged in the county gaol.

In his defence at his trial, he urged that the reason of his absence from his family was a quarrel with his wife, in consequence of the unhappy discovery that had been made by the deceased: but as he could bring no proof of his being absent from the spot when the murder was committed, no doubt remained of his guilt, and he was sentenced to die.

After conviction, he was visited by several gentlemen, who exerted themselves to impress him with a due sense of his awful situation. As his death approached, he became still more resigned, acknowledged the many errors of his life, and con-

fessed that he deserved to undergo the rigour of the law.

He walked to the place of execution, amidst an immense surrounding multitude: and having ascended the cart, addressed the populace, advising them to refrain from yielding to the first impulses of temptation, as they would wish to be preserved from the violation of the Divine laws. After the usual devotions, he drew his cap over his face, and saying, "To thee, O Lord, I resign my soul," he was launched into eternity.

CAPT. S. GOODERE, A FRATRICIDE; MATTHEW MAHONY, AND C. WHITE, HIS ACCOMPLICES IN THE MURDER OF SIR JOHN DINELY GOODERE, BART.

*Executed at the Hot Wells, Bristol, April 20, 1741.*

SIR JOHN DINELY GOODERE succeeded his father, Sir Edward, in the possession of an estate of 3000*l.* a year, situated near Eversham, in Woreestershire.

His brother Samuel, the subject of this narrative, was bred to the sea, and at length was advanced to the rank of captain of a man of war.

Sir John married the daughter of a merchant, and received 20,000*l.* as a marriage portion; but mutual unhappiness was the consequence of this connection: for the husband was brutal in his manners, and the wife, perhaps, not strictly observant of the sacred vow she had taken; for she was too frequently visited by Sir Robert Jansen; and after frequent recriminations between the married pair, Sir John brought an action in the Court of Common Pleas, for criminal conversation, and 500*l.* damages were averred by the jury.

Sir John's next step was to indict his lady for a conspiracy, and a conviction following, she was fined, and imprisoned a year in the King's Bench.

He likewise petitioned for a divorce; but the matter being heard in the House of Lords, his petition was thrown out.

Sir John having no children, Captain Samuel Goodere formed very sanguine expectations of possessing the estate; but finding that the brother had docked the entail in favour of his sister's children, the captain sought the most diabolical means of revenge for the supposed injury.

While the captain's vessel lay in the port of Bristol, Sir John went to that city on business; and being engaged to dine with an attorney, named Smith, Captain Goodere prevailed on the latter to permit him to make one of their company, under pretence of being reconciled to his brother: Mr. Smith consented, and used his good offices to accommodate the difference: and a sincere reconciliation appeared to have taken place; but such was the treachery and cruelty of the captain, that he was at that time taking measures for the murder of his brother, which, as it will appear in the course of this narrative, was perpetrated with every circumstance of barbarity that could aggravate so dreadful and unnatural a crime.

This visit was made on the 10th of January, 1741, and the captain, having previously concerted his measures, brought some sailors on shore with him, and left them at a public-house, in waiting to seize the baronet in the evening.

Accordingly, when the company broke up, the captain attended his brother through the streets, and when they came opposite to the public-house, the seamen ran out, seized Sir John, and conveyed him to a boat that had been appointed to wait for his reception.

Some persons who were witnesses to this outrage would have resented the unfortunate gentleman; but the captain telling them that he was a deserter, and the darkness of the evening preventing them from judging by his appearance, this violation of the law was permitted to pass unobstructed.

As soon as the devoted victim was in the boat, he said to his brother, "I know you have an intention to murder me, and if you are ready to do it, let me beg that it be done here, without giving yourself the trouble to take me on board:" to which the captain said, "No, brother, I am going to prevent your rotting on land; but, however, I would have you make your peace with God this night."

Sir John being put on board, applied to the seamen for help: but the captain put a stop to any efforts they might have made to assist him, by saying he was a lunatic, and brought on board to prevent his committing an act of suicide.

White and Mahony now conveyed him to the purser's cabin, which the captain guarded with a drawn sword, while the other villains attempted to strangle him, with a handkerchief which they found in his pocket, the wretched victim crying out "murder!" and beseeching them not to kill him, and offering all he possessed as a compensation for his life.

As they could not strangle him with the handkerchief, the captain gave them a cord; with which Mahony dispatched him, while White held his hands, and trod on his stomach. The captain now retired to his cabin; and the murder being committed, the perpetrators of it went to him, and told him "the job was done;" on which he gave them money, and bade them seek their safety in flight.

The attorney with whom the brothers had dined, having heard of the commission of a murder, and knowing of the former animosity of the captain to his brother, immediately conjectured who it was that had fallen a sacrifice; on which he went to the mayor of Bristol, who issued his warrant to the water-bailiff, who, going on board, found that the lieutenant and cooper had prudently confined the captain to his cabin.

The offender being brought on shore, was committed to Newgate, and Mahony and White being

taken in a few hours afterwards, were lodged in the same prison.

At the sessions held at Bristol on the 26th of March, 1741, these offenders were brought to trial: and being convicted on the fullest evidence, received sentence of death.

After conviction, Mahony behaved in the most hardened manner imaginable: and when the goalers were putting irons on him, he said he should not regard dying on the following day, if he could be attended by a priest, to whom he might confess his sins. This man and White were both Irishmen, and Roman Catholics.

Captain Goodere's time, after conviction, was spent chiefly in writing letters to persons of rank, to make interest to save his life; and his wife and daughter presented a petition to the king: but all endeavours of this kind proving ineffectual, he employed a man to hire some colliers to rescue him on his way to the fatal tree: but this circumstance transpiring, the sheriff took care to have a proper guard to carry the law into effectual execution.

Captain Goodere's wife and daughter, dressed in deep mourning, took a solemn leave of him on the day before his death. He went in a mourning-coach to the place of execution, to which his accomplices were conveyed in a cart.

They were hanged near the Hot Wells, Bristol, on the 20th of April, 1741, within view of the place where the ship lay when the murder was committed.

Along with them suffered a woman, named Jane Williams, for the murder of her bastard child, who had been brought up in such a wretched state of ignorance that she knew not, until instructed by the clergyman who attended her dying moments, that there is a God.

## JAMES HALL,

*Executed in the Strand, September 15, 1741, for murdering his master.*

THE terror which this man evinced, after he had committed the dreadful crime for which he had suffered, was one principal cause of its being discovered; and we scarcely recollect an instance in which a criminal has suffered greater agony from the stings of a guilty conscience.

He was descended of honest parents, of Wells, in Somersetshire, who gave him such an education as might qualify him for any ordinary rank of life.

Being unwilling to remain in the country, he came to London, and lived some time with a corn-chandler; and after a continuation in this service, he married, and had several children: but not living happily with his wife, articles of separation were executed between them. After this he married another woman, by whom he had one child, and who visited him after his being in custody for the murder.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in August 1741, he was indicted for the murder of John Penny, gentleman, and pleading guilty, received sentence of death.

Mr. Penny had chambers in Clements Inn; and Hall had lived with him seven years before he committed the murder; nor had he formed any design of being guilty of the horrid deed till within about a month of its perpetration! but having kept more company than his circumstances could afford, he had involved himself in difficulties, which made him resolve to murder and rob his master.

On the 7th of June, 1741, he intoxicated himself with liquor, and then determined to carry his design into execution. Mr. Penny coming home between eleven and twelve at night, Hall assisted in undressing him in the dining-room; and while he was

walking towards the bed, the villain followed him with a stick, which he had concealed for the purpose, and struck him one blow with such force that he never spoke afterwards; and continued his blows on the head till he was apparently dead.

Willing, however, to be certain of completing the horrid tragedy, and to avoid detection, he went into the dining-room, and stripping himself naked, he took a small fruit-knife belonging to his master, and returning to the chamber, cut his throat with it, holding his neck over the chamber-pot. Mr. Penny bled very freely; for when the blood was mixed with a small quantity of water, it almost filled the pot five times; and three of the pots thus mixed the murderer threw into the sink, and two in the coal-hole. He then took his master's waistcoat, which was lined with duffil, and bound it round his neck, to suck up the remainder of the blood.

This being done, he took the body on his shoulders, carried it to the necessary, and threw it in head foremost; and flying back immediately to the chambers, under the most dreadful apprehensions of mind, he took his master's coat, bloody shirt, the stick that he had knocked him down with, and some rags that he had used in wiping up the blood, and running a second time naked to the necessary-house, threw them in at a hole on the opposite side of it.

The body being thus disposed of, he stole about thirty-six guineas from his master's pocket, and writing-desk; and such was the confusion of his mind, that he likewise took some franks, sealing-wax, and other articles for which he had no use, and then he employed the remainder of the night in washing and rubbing the rooms with cloths: but finding it no easy matter to get out the blood, he sent for the laundress in the morning to wash them again, telling her that his master's nose had bled over night.

On the following day the guilty wretch strolled from place to place, unable to find rest for a mo-

ment any where ; and all his thoughts being engaged in concealing the murder, which he hoped was effectually done, from the place where he had secreted the body.

On the Friday following, he went to Mr. Wooton, his master's nephew, on a pretence of inquiring for Mr. Penny, who he said had quitted the chambers two days before, and gone somewhere by water ; so that he was afraid some accident had happened to him.

Mr. Wooton was so particular in his enquiries after his uncle, that Hall was exceedingly terrified at his questions, and knew not what answer to make to them. After this he went twice every day to Mr. Wooton, to enquire after his master, for ten days ; but lived all the while in a torment of mind that is not to be described.

So wretched was he, that finding it impossible to sleep in the chambers, he got his wife to come and be with him : and they lay in Mr. Penny's bed : but still sleep was a stranger to him.

At length Mr. Wooton had Hall taken into custody, on a violent suspicion that he had murdered his uncle. On his first examination before a magistrate, he steadily avowed his innocence ; but being committed to Newgate, he attempted to escape : this, however, was prevented : and a few days afterwards he confessed his guilt before some relations of the deceased.

We have already mentioned that he pleaded guilty on his trial ; and have now to add that, after sentence was passed on him, he was exceedingly contrite and penitent, and confessed his guilt in letters to his friends.

On the day before his death he received the sacrament, with all apparent signs of that penitence, which was necessary to prepare him for the dreadful scene that lay before him.

He was hanged at the end of Catherine-street, in  
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the Strand, and his body afterwards hung in chains at Sheepherd's Bush, three miles beyond Tyburn Turnpike, on the road to Acton.

The following is a letter which he wrote to his wife, the night preceeding his execution :

“ My Dear,

Twelve o'clock, Sunday night.

“ I am very sorry we could not have the liberty of a little time by ourselves, when you came to take your leave of me ; if we had, I should have thought of many more things to have said to you than I did ; but then I fear it would have caused more grief at our parting. I am greatly concerned that I am obliged to leave you and my child, and much more in such a manner, as to give the world room to reflect upon you on my account ; though none but the ignorant will, but rather pity your misfortunes, as being fully satisfied of your innocency in all respects relating to the crime for which I am in a few hours to suffer.

“ I now heartily wish, not only for my own sake, but the injured person's, your's and my child's, that I was as innocent as you are, but freely own I am not, nor possibly can be in this world ; yet I humbly hope, and fully trust, through God's great merey, and the merits of my blessed Saviour Jesus Christ, to be happy in the next.

“ After I parted with you I received the holy sacrament comfortably, which Mr. Broughton was so good as to administer to me, who has also several times before taken a great deal of pains to instruct me, and so has some others of his acquaintance, by whose assistance, and my own endeavours, I hope God will pardon all my sins for Christ's sake, and admit me into his heavenly kingdom.

“ My dear, some of my latest prayers will be to God to direct and prosper you and my child in all good ways, so long as he pleases to let you live here on earth ; that afterwards he may receive you both

to his mercies to all eternity. I hope I shall willingly submit to my fate, and die in peace with all men. This is now all the comfort I can give you in this world, who living was, and dying hope to remain,

“ Your loving and most affectionate husband,

“ JAMES HALL.”

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## HENRY COOK,

(MURDERER AND HORSE-STEALER.)

*Executed at Tyburn, December 16, 1741, for highway robbery.*

FEW have had so long a career in villainy as this man, who committed more robberies, singly, than Wild, Turpin, or Hawke. He was for a long time the terror of travellers, but particularly in Essex; and his history contains many curious and daring exploits.

He was at last overtaken by the hands of justice, and his long career, and hair-breadth escapes served only to increase his guilt, and consequently to render him worthy of a more severe punishment.

Cook was the son of respectable parents in Hounsditch, who having given him a decent education, was apprenticed to a leather-cutter, with whom he served his time, and then his father took the shop of a shoemaker at Stratford, Essex, in which he placed his son.

Having some knowledge of the shoemaking business, he was soon well established, and married a young woman at Stratford, by whom he had three children, before he commenced highwayman.

However, it was not long after his marriage, before the associating with bad company, and the ne-

glect of his business, involved him so far in debt, that he was obliged to quit his house in apprehension of the bailiffs.

He was afterwards obliged wholly to decline business; and having taken up goods in the name of his father, he was ashamed to make application to him for relief in his distress.

Among the idle acquaintance that Cook had made at Stratford, was an apothecary named Young, who was concerned with him in robbing gardens and fish-ponds, and in stealing poultry. The persons robbed, offered a reward for apprehending the offenders; and Cook having been known to sell fowls at Leaden-hall-market, a warrant was granted to take him into custody; but having notice of it, he concealed himself two months at the house of a relation at Grays, in Essex.

During this retreat it was determined not to execute the warrant; but Cook learning that a bailiff at Stratford had vowed to arrest him if he could be found, he sent the officer a letter, advising him to consult his own safety, for he would blow his brains out if he should meet him.

This threat effectually intimidated the bailiff: and Cook having dissipated all his cash, went to Stratford, where he found a man so intimate with his wife, that he became enraged in the highest degree, and taking several articles of furniture with him, he went to London, and sold them.

This being done, he went to the house of a relation in Shoreditch, where he was treated with civility while his money lasted; but when that was nearly gone there was no farther appearance of friendship; and being now driven to extremity, he went to Moorfields, where he purchased a pair of pistols, and having procured powder and ball, went towards Newington, in his way to which he robbed a man of fifteen shillings, and returned to London.

Thus embarked in the high road to destruction, he determined to continue his dangerous trade; and

on the following day went to Finchley Common, where he stopped a gentleman, the bridle of whose horse he seized, and ordered him to dismount on pain of death. The rider complying, was robbed both of his money and horse: but he offered the highwayman three guineas if he would send the horse to an inn at St. Albans, which he promised to do; but afterwards finding that he had a valuable acquisition in the beast, he failed to restore him.

This robbery being committed, he crossed the country to Enfield-chace, and going to a public-house where he was known, said that he wished to hide himself lest he should be arrested..

Having continued here two days, he proceeded to Tottenham, where he robbed a gentleman of about six pounds, and leaving his horse at an inn in Bishopsgate-street, he went to his kinsman's in Shoreditch, where he was interrogated respecting his possessing so much money: but he would give no satisfactory answer.

On the following day he went on the St. Alban's road, and having robbed the passengers of a stage-coach of eight pounds, he went to Enfield-chace, to the house he had frequented before; but while he was there, he read an advertisement in which his horse was so exactly described, that he determined to abscond: on which he went to Hadley Common, near Barnet, where he robbed a gentleman, and taking his horse, gave the gentleman his own.

Soon after this he went to an inn at Mims, where he saw a gentleman whom he had formerly robbed, and was so terrified by the sight of the injured party, that he ran to the stable, took his horse, and galloped off with the utmost expedition.

On the road between Mims and Barnet, he was met by eight men on horseback, one of whom challenged the horse he rode, saying that a highwayman had stolen it from a gentleman of his acquaintance.

Our adventurer replied, that he had bought the horse at the Bell, in Edmonton, of which he could

give convincing proofs ; on which the whole company determined to attend him to that place ; but when he came near Edmonton, he galloped up a lane, where he was followed by all the other parties ; and finding himself in danger of being apprehended, he faced his pursuers, and presenting a pistol, swore he would fire, unless they retreated. Some countrymen coming up at this juncture, he must have been made prisoner, but night advancing, he quitted his horse, and took shelter in a wood.

When he thought he might safely leave his lurking-place, he hastened to London, and going to the house of his relation in Shoreditch, he was challenged with having committed robberies on the highway : but nothing could be learnt from the answers he gave.

Having dissipated his present money, he went again upon Finchley Common. His late narrow escape, however, made such an impression on his mind, that he suffered several persons to pass unattacked, but at length robbed an old man of his horse and five pounds, though not till after it was dark.

Soon afterwards he met a gentleman, whom he obliged to change horses with him : but in a few minutes the gentleman was stopped by the owner of the stolen horse, who said a highwayman had just robbed him of it. Enraged at this, the gentleman swore the place was infested with thieves : however, he delivered the horse, and walked to London.

Cook riding to his old place of resort near the Chace, remained there three days ; but seeing the horse he had last stolen advertised, he rode off in fear of discovery ; and had not proceeded far, before he was seized by the owner of the horse, assisted by three other persons, who conducted him to Newgate.

At the next Old Bailey sessions he was indicted for stealing this horse ; but acquitted, because the owner would not swear to his person.

Soon after his discharge, he returned to his former

practices, but his affairs with his creditors having been by this time adjusted by his friends, he lived at Stratford with his wife, and committed his depredations chiefly on Epping Forest.

• Having acquired a booty of 30*l*. he shewed it to a journeyman he kept, named Taylor, and asked him how he might employ it to the best advantage, in buying leather; but Taylor guessing how it had been obtained, offered to go partners with his master in committing robberies on the highway; and the base contract was instantly made.

They now stopped a great number of coaches on the borders of the Forest; but acted with such an uncommon degree of caution, that they were for a long time unsuspected. The neighbours being at length terrified by such repeated outrages on the public peace, a Captain Mawley took a place in the basket of the Colchester coach, to make discoveries; and Cook and Taylor coming up to demand the money of the passengers, Taylor was shot through the head; on which Cook ran to the captain, and robbed him of his money, on threatening instant death in case of refusal.

The carriage driving on, Cook began to search his deceased companion for his money; but some of the neighbours coming up, he retired behind a hedge to listen to their conversation; and having found that some of them knew the deceased, and intimated that he had been accompanied by Cook, he crossed the fields to London.

Having spent three days in riot and dissipation, he went to his relation in Shoreditch, whom he requested to go to Stratford to inquire the situation of affairs there. When his relation returned, he told him there were several warrants issued against him, and advised him to go to sea.

This he promised to do, but instead thereof, he bought a horse, and rode to Brentwood, in Essex, where he heard little conversation but of Cook, the famous highwayman of Stratford; and on the next day, he followed a coach from the inn where he had

put up, and took about thirty pounds from the passengers.

Cook now connected himself with a gang of desperate highwaymen in London, in conjunction with whom he stopped a coach near Bow, in which were some young gentlemen from a boarding-school. A Mr. Cruikshanks riding up at this instant, one of the gang demanded his money; but as he hesitated to deliver it, another of them knocked him down, and killed him on the spot; after which the robbers went to a public-house near Hackney-marsh, and divided the spoils of the evening.

Cook continued but a short time with this gang; but going to a house at Newington Green, sent for a woman with whom he had cohabited; who threatened to have him apprehended, unless he would give her some money: and though he had but little in his possession, he gave her a guinea, and promised her a farther sum, lest she should carry her threats into execution.

Oppressed in mind by contemplations on his crimes, and particularly on reflecting on the murder of Mr. Cruikshanks, he went to St. Albans, where he assumed a new name, and worked as a journeyman shoemaker for about three weeks; when a highwayman being pursued through the town, the terrors of his conscience on the occasion were such, that he hastily left the shop, and ran across the country, towards Woburn, in Bedfordshire.

In his way to Woburn he robbed a farmer of 50*l.* and his horse, and bade him sue the county. The farmer soon raised the hue and cry; but Cook escaped for the present, and riding as far as Birmingham, took lodgings at a public-house, and disposed of his horse.

Cook had now taken on him the name of Stevens; and the landlord of the house where he lodged telling him that there was a shop to let, he took it, and entered into business as a shoemaker. He now hired one Mrs. Barrett, as his house-keeper: but she soon became his more intimate companion: and

accompanied him to horse-races, and other places of public diversion, where his little money was soon dissipated.

Thus situated, he told his house-keeper that he had an aunt in Hertfordshire, who allowed him an hundred per annum, which he received in quarterly payments; and that he would go to her for his money. Under this pretence he left her, and went to Northampton, and from thence to Dunstable, near which place he robbed a farmer of his horse and 16*l*. and then rode to Daventry.

At this last place he met with a Manchester dealer, going home from London; and having spent the evening together, they travelled in company next day, and dined at Coventry. Cook having an intention of robbing his fellow-traveller, intimated that it would be proper to conceal their money, as they had a dangerous road to travel; and putting his own money into his boot, the other put a purse of gold into his side-pocket.

Prosecuting their journey till they came to a cross-road, Cook demanded his companion's money on pain of immediate death: and having robbed him of thirty-five guineas, he travelled immediately to Birmingham; and Mrs. Barrett imagined he had been supplied by his aunt, agreeable to the story he had told her.

He now carried on trade as usual; but as often as he was distressed for cash, he used to have recourse to the road, and recruited his pockets by robbing the stages.

At length a London trader coming to Birmingham, asked Cook how long he had lived there: which terrified him so that he quitted the place, and travelled towards London, and near Highgate robbed a gentleman, named Zachary, of his horse and money.

On his stolen horse he rode to Epping Forest on the following day; and having robbed a gentleman,

returned to London by the way of Stratford at which place he spoke to a number of his old acquaintance; but was not imprudent enough to quit his horse.

Going to a house he had frequented at Newington-green, he sent for his relation who lived near Shoreditch, who advised him to make his escape, or he would certainly be taken into custody. On this he went to Mims: and his relation visiting him, Cook begged he would sell five watches for him: but the other declined it, recommending him to dispose of them himself in London.

On the following evening, when it was almost dark, he rode towards town, and observing a chaise behind him, permitted it to pass, and followed it to the descent of the hill towards Holloway. There were two gentlemen in the chaise, whose money Cook demanded: but, instead of complying, they drove on the faster; on which he fired, and wounded one of them in the arm: but the report of the pistol bringing some people towards the spot, he galloped off, and went to Mims, his old place of retreat.

Coming to London, next day, to sell his watches, he was seen in Cheapside by a woman who knew him, and followed him to Norton Folgate, where, observing him to go into a public-house, she went and procured a constable, who took him into custody, and found on him five watches, and about 9*l.* in money.

On his examination before a magistrate, Mr. Zachary, whom he robbed near Highgate, swearing to the identity of his person, he was committed to Newgate; but not before he had offered to become evidence against some accomplices he pretended to have had; but this offer was rejected.

He now formed a scheme to murder the keepers, and to make his escape; but being detected, he was confined to the cells, and being brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, was capitally convicted.

After sentence of death, he for some time affected a gaiety of behaviour: but when the warrant for

his execution arrived, he was so struck with the idea of his approaching fate, that it occasioned convulsive fits, and he never afterwards recovered his health.

He was hanged with John Hudson, for horse-stealing; Patrick Bourne, for a burglary; and Mary Harris, for stripping and robbing a child of about ten years of age.

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## ROBERT RAMSEY,

(HIGHWAYMAN AND A SINGULAR CHEAT,)

*Executed at Tyburn, on the 13th of June, 1742.*

THIS notorious adept in the art of knavery was born of respectable parents near Grosvenor-square, and apprenticed to an apothecary, after being liberally educated at Westminster school. His master's circumstances becoming embarrassed, Ramsey left him, and went into the service of another gentleman of the same profession.

He now became a professed gamester. The billiards and hazard-tables engrossed his time; and his skill being great, he often stripped his companions; but the money he thus obtained, he dissipated in the most extravagant manner.

Having made an acquaintance with one Carr, they singled out a clergyman who frequented the coffee-house they used, as a proper object to impose upon: and having ingratiated themselves into his good opinion, Ramsey took the opportunity of Carr's absence to tell the clergyman that he had a secret of the utmost consequence to impart: and the clergyman having promised secrecy, the other said that Carr was in love with a young widow, who was very rich, and inclined to marry him; but that the match was opposed by her relations.

He added that the lady herself was averse to be ing married at the Fleet, even if she could escape the vigilance of her relations so far as to reach that place. The clergyman listening to the story, Ramsey offered him twenty guineas to marry the young couple; and it was agreed that the parties should meet at a tavern near the Royal Exchange on the following day.

Ramsey, having told Carr what had passed, went to the clergyman the next morning; and observing that if the lady took her own footman he might be known, said he would disguise himself in livery, and attend the priest.

This being done, a hackney-coach was called for the clergyman, and Ramsey getting up behind it, they drove to the tavern, where rich wines were called for, of which Ramsey urged the clergyman to drink so freely that he fell asleep, when Ramsey picked his pocket of his keys.

The gentleman awaking, inquired for the couple that were to be married; on which Ramsey, calling for more wine, said he would go in search of them; but immediately calling a coach, he went to the clergyman's lodgings, and producing the keys, said he had been sent by the gentleman for some papers in his cabinet.

The landlady of the house, seeing the keys, permitted him to search for what he wanted; on which he stole a diamond ring of the value of 40*l.* and about a hundred pounds in money, and carried off some papers.

This being done, he returned to the clergyman, said that the young people would attend in a short time, and desired him to order a genteel dinner: but this last injunction was unnecessary; for the parson had taken previous care of it; and while he was at dinner, Ramsey said he would go and order a diamond, and a plain gold ring, and would return immediately.

He had not been long absent when a jeweller

brought the rings, which he said were for a baronet and his lady who were coming to be married. The clergyman asked him to drink the healths of the young couple; and just at this juncture Ramsey came in, and told the jeweller that he was instantly wanted home; but that he must return without loss of time, as his master's arrival was immediately expected.

The jeweller was no sooner gone than Ramsey, taking up the diamond ring, said that he had brought a wrong one, and he would go back and rectify the mistake. In the interim the jeweller finding that he had not been wanted at home, began to suspect that some undue artifice had been used; on which he hurried to the tavern, and thought himself happy in finding that the parson had not decamped.

Having privately directed the waiter to procure a constable, he charged the clergyman with defrauding him of the rings. The other was naturally astonished at such a charge; but the jeweller insisted on taking him before a magistrate; where he related a tale that, some days before, those rings had been ordered by a man whom he supposed to be an accomplice of the person now charged: but the clergyman being a man of fair character, sent for some reputable people to bail him; while the jeweller returned home cursing his ill fortune for the trick that had been put on him.

London being an unsafe place for Ramsey longer to reside in, he went to Chester, where he assumed the character of an Irish gentleman, who had been to study physic in Holland, and was now going back to his native country. During his residence at Chester he insinuated that he was in possession of a specific cure for the gout; and the landlord of the inn he put up at being ill of that disorder, took the medicine; and his fit leaving him in a few days, he ascribed the cure to the supposed nostrum.

Ramsey having gone by the name of Johnson in this city, now dressed himself as a physician, and

having printed and dispersed hand-bills, giving an account of many patients whose disorders had yielded to his skill; and promising to cure the poor without expense, no person doubted either the character or abilities of Dr. Johnson.

A young lady who was troubled with an asthma became one of his patients; and Ramsey presuming that she possessed a good fortune, insinuated himself so far into her good graces that she would have married him; but that her uncle, in whose hands her money was, happened to come to Chester at that juncture.

The young lady acquainted the uncle with the proposed marriage; on which the old gentleman observed that it would be imprudent to marry a man with whose circumstances and character she was wholly unacquainted; on which she consented that the necessary inquiries should be made; but to this her consent was reluctantly obtained, as she was entirely devoted to her lover.

Hereupon Ramsey put into her uncle's hand copies of several letters which he said he had written to some people of distinction, who would answer for his character. By this finesse he hoped to get time to prevail on the lady to marry him privately, which, indeed, she would readily have done, but through fear of offending her uncle.

During this situation of affairs, while Ramsey was walking without the city, he happened to see the clergymen abovementioned, whom he had so much injured in London; on which he hastily retired to a public house in Chester, and sent a person to Park-Gate, to inquire when any ship would sail for Ireland: and the answer brought was, that a vessel would sail that very night.

On receiving this intelligence, Ramsey went and drank tea with the young lady; and taking the opportunity of her absence from the room, he opened a drawer, whence he took a diamond ring, and fifty guineas, out of eighty which were in a bag.

Some little time afterwards he asked the lady to spend the evening at his lodgings, and play a game at cards; and having obtained her consent, they spent some time with apparent satisfaction: but Ramsey going down stairs returned in great haste, and said that her uncle was below. As she appeared frightened by this circumstance, he locked her in the room, first giving her a book to read, and said that if her uncle should desire to come up, he would pretend to have lost the key of the door.

The intent of this plan was to effect his escape while she was confined; and having got on board the ship the same evening, he sent her a letter, of which the following is a copy:

“ Dear Madam,

“ I doubt not but you will be extremely surprised at the sudden disappearance of your lover: but when you begin to consider what a dreadful precipice you have escaped, you will bless your stars. By the time this comes to hand, I shall be pretty near London, and as for the trifle I borrowed of you, I hope you will excuse it, as you know I might have taken the whole, if I would; but you see there is still some conscience among us doctors.

“ The ring I intend to keep for your sake unless the hazard-table disappoints me, and if ever fortune puts it in my power, I will make you a suitable return: but till then, take this advice, never let a strange doctor possess your affections any more.

“ I had almost forgot to ask pardon for making you my prisoner; but I doubt not, but old Starch-face, your uncle, would detain me a little longer, if he could find me. Adieu.

“ R. JOHNSON.”

This letter he committed to the care of a person who was to go to Chester in a few days; and in the interim Ramsey reached Dublin, where having dis-

sipated his money in extravagance, he embarked in a ship bound to Bristol, whence he travelled to London.

On his arrival in the metropolis, he found his younger brother, who had likewise supported himself by acts of dishonesty; and the two brothers agreed to act in concert.

His brother was a snuff-box maker, and they now went out together genteely dressed, early in the morning, in order to commit their depredations, when they found the door of a genteel house open; and while the servant woman was washing the steps, or gone on a short errand, leaving the door ajar, one of them slipped in, and seized the plate on the side-board, or whatever he could lay his hands on, while the other remained to prevent surprise; and then he would receive and run off with the prize while the actual robber, with apparent unconcern, walked off another way.

They committed a variety of robberies in conjunction, confining their depredations chiefly to the stealing of plate: but we proceed to the narrative of that for which Ramsey suffered the utmost rigour of the law.

Having taken a previous survey of Mr. Glyn's house at the corner of Hatton-Garden, the brothers broke into it in the night, and carried off a quantity of plate; but hand-bills being immediately circulated, they were taken into custody while offering the plate for sale to a Jew in Duke's Place. The lord mayor, on examining the prisoners, admitted the younger brother an evidence against the elder.

At the next sessions at the Old Bailey it was an affecting scene to behold the one brother giving evidence against the other, who was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death.

After conviction Ramsey seemed to entertain a proper idea of the enormity of the offences of which he had been guilty; and in several letters to persons whom he had robbed, he confessed his crimes,

and entreated their prayers. He did not flatter himself with the least hope of pardon ; sensible that his numerous offences must necessarily preclude him from such favour. .

A letter, which he wrote to a friend at Bristol, contains the following pathetic expressions : " O blame me not : I am now by the just judgment of God and man under sentence of death. Whatever injuries I have committed, with tears in my poor eyes, I ask forgiveness. Oh ! my friend, could you but guess or think what agonies I feel, I am sure you would pity me : may my Father, which is in heaven, pity me likewise !" .

At the place of execution Ramsey made an affecting address to the surrounding multitude ; entreating the younger part of the audience to avoid gaming, as what would infallibly lead to destruction. .

After the customary devotions on such melancholy occasions, he was turned off, and the body having hung the usual time, was conveyed in a hearse to Giltspur-street, whence it was taken and decently interred by his friends, at the expiration of two days from the time of his execution. .

On the same gallows with Ramsey were also executed James Boquois and Joseph Allen, for highway robberies ; Mary Page, for stealing goods ; William Quaite, a drummer in the guards, for a robbery committed in St. James's Park ; and John Glew Guilliford, for returning before the expiration of his sentence, from transportation, of whom we can find no particulars.\*

## JONATHAN BRADFORD,

*Was executed at Oxford, upon presumptive evidence, for the murder of Christopher Hayes, Esq. whose death he had premeditated, but was innocent of the charge for which he suffered.*

THE following is one of those lamentable cases which we fear have too frequently occurred, and should be a warning to all who have the life of a suspected individual at their disposal, to be particularly cautious in trusting to presumptive evidence.

Jonathan Bradford kept an inn at the city of Oxford. A gentleman (Mr. Hayes) attended by a man-servant, one evening put up at Bradford's house, and in the night, the former was found murdered in his bed, and the landlord apprehended on suspicion of having committed the barbarous and inhospitable crime.

The evidence given against him was to the following effect: Two gentlemen who had supped with Mr. Hayes, and who retired at the same time to their respective chambers, being alarmed in the night, with a noise in his room, and hearing groans, as of a wounded man, they got up in order to discover the cause; and found their landlord, with a dark lantern, and a knife in his hand, in a state of astonishment and horror, over his dying guest, who almost instantly expired.

On this evidence the jury convicted Bradford, and he was executed. If we are to determine upon the life or death of a man, here was presumptive evidence sufficient for that purpose. On a trial at Nisi Prius, and between personal right and wrong, the jury are often directed by the judge to take into consideration presumptive evidence, where positive proof is wanting; but in criminal charges, it never should, unsupported by some oral testimony, or

ocular demonstration, be sufficient to find a verdict against the accused.

The facts attending this dreadful tragedy, were not fully brought to light, until the death-bed confession of the murderer, when we must all endeavour to make our peace with God.

Mr. Hayes was a man of considerable property, and greatly respected. He had about him when his sad destiny led him under the roof of Bradford, a considerable sum of money; and Bradford knowing this, determined to murder and rob him. For this horrid purpose he proceeded with a dark lantern and a carving-knife, intending to cut the throat of his guest, while he was asleep; but what must have been his astonishment and confusion, when he found his victim already murdered, and weltering in his blood.

The wicked and faithless servant had also resolved to murder his master; and had just committed the horrid act, and secured his treasure, the moment before the landlord entered for the same purpose!!!

## MARTIN NOWLAND,

*Executed at Tyburn, on the 24th of February, 1742,  
for high treason.*

THE offence for which this man suffered, is in the highest degree criminal, and should be held in the utmost detestation by every loyal subject; and in this instance the extreme depravity which this man showed, in endeavouring to seduce British soldiers from their allegiance, is equalled only by the gross absurdity of the manner in which the traitorous design was attempted.

This traitor was a native of Ireland, and while a youth was decoyed from his parents, conveyed to

Dunkirk, and entered into the regiment of Dillon. In this station he continued fourteen years, at the end of which time he was sent to London, to enlist men into the French service; and was promised a promotion on his return, as a reward for the diligence he might exert.

On his arrival in London he endeavoured to connect himself with people of the lower ranks, whom he thought most likely to be seduced by his artifices: and one day going on the quays near London-bridge, he met with two brothers, named Meredith, both of them in the army, but who occasionally worked on the quays, to make an addition to their military pay.

Having invited these men to a house in the Borough, he treated them with liquor, represented the emoluments that would arise from their entering into the French service; and among other things, said that, exclusive of their pay, they would receive four loaves of bread weekly.

When they were thus refreshed, Nowland prevailed on them to go to his lodgings in Kent-street, where he farther regaled them, and then he said he hoped they would enter into the service. They expressed their readiness to do so; and said they could aid him in enlisting several other men, if he would spend the evening with them at a public-house in the Strand.

This proposal being assented to, they took him to a famous ale-house near the Savoy, called the Coal-hole, when Nowland was terrified at the sight of several soldiers of the guards; but the Merediths saying they were their intimate acquaintance, the parties adjourned to a room by themselves. Here the brothers asked Nowland how much they were to receive for enlisting, which he told them would be four guineas; and that he was commissioned to pay their expenses till they should join the regiment.

The intention of the brothers seems to have been

to obtain some money of Nowland; but finding it was not in his power to advance any while they remained in England, one of them went to the serjeant at the Savoy, informing him of what had passed, and asked him how he must dispose of Nowland. The serjeant said, he must be detained for the night, and taken before a magistrate on the following day.

On his return to the public-house, Nowland produced a certificate, signed by the lieutenant-colonel of the regiment, as a proof that he was actually in the service of France. He likewise said that the soldiers must dispose of their clothes, and purchase others, to prevent their being detected at Dover; and he repeated his promise of the bounty-money, and other accommodations proper for a soldier, on their reaching the regiment.

When the Merediths, and the other soldiers, had drank at Nowland's expense till they were satisfied, they conveyed him to the round house, and on the following day, took him before a magistrate, to whom, after some hesitation, he acknowledged that he had been employed to enlist men for the Irish brigades in the service of France.

Inquiry being made respecting his accomplices, he acknowledged that a captain belonging to his regiment was in London, and that some other agents were soon expected in the kingdom: on which he was informed that he should be admitted an evidence if he would impeach his accomplices. He replied, "that he was a man of honour, and would never be guilty of hanging any other person to save his own life."

He was committed to Newgate in consequence of this confession, and being brought to his trial, he was convicted at the following sessions at the Old Bailey, and received sentence of death.

Nowland being of the Roman Catholic persuasion, it is not possible to give a particular account of his behaviour after conviction; as he declined holding

any correspondence with the ordinary of Newgate. When he came to the fatal tree, he performed his devotions in his own way, and being executed, his body was carried to St. Giles's, and soon afterwards buried in St. Pancras church-yard, by some of his Roman Catholic friends.

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### JOHN JENNINGS,

*Executed at York, in the year 1742, on a charge of robbery, of which he was innocent.*

THIS unfortunate man was the victim of his master, who sacrificed him in order to screen himself from the vengeance of the law. He was a waiter at the Bell Inn, near Hull, in Yorkshire, kept by a villain of the name of James Brunel.

A robbery had lately been committed on the highway, on an old man, a reputed miser; and who, for greater safety, generally carried a bag of gold about him. The old man, soon after being robbed, casually went into the Bell; and going up to the bar, saw Brunel, the landlord, with one of his guineas in his hand, and some shillings, which he was paying away to a carrier, which were all marked, so that he could identify them. He consequently suspected that the landlord was the robber, and related the circumstance to some other persons in the house.

Brunel overheard the conversation, and to secure himself, instantly formed and executed a design to impute the robbery to his waiter, Jennings, who had gone early to sleep, in a state of intoxication. To this wicked end, he went to his bed, and put the purse, taken from the old man, with the greater part of its contents, in the unfortunate man's pocket, without waking him; and then coming down to the company, told them, that he believed he had found the thief. "I have," continued the villain, long

suspected Jennings, one of my waiters, and about five hours ago I gave him a guinea to get changed; he came back in liquor, and gave me a guinea, which I am sure is not the same I gave him. He then produced the guinea, which being marked, was claimed by the old man. It was now proposed that Jennings should be searched, which was done, and the purse being found upon him, he was committed, tried, condemned, and executed.

Brunel, being afterwards convicted of another robbery, confessed this, which, had he acknowledged before, he would have prevented the execution of an innocent man, and might have saved himself from the additional guilt incurred by the commission of the second.

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### ROBERT FULLER, .

*Convicted of shooting Mr. Bailey, and pardoned.  
June sessions, 1743.*

WE record the following case in order to shew the extreme care which should be taken in swearing to the identity of a prisoner. The jury were so far dubious, that they recommended the subject of this narrative to the royal clemency; but as there was no proof of his really being the offender, we think they ought to have acquitted him, and not to have involved him in the disgrace of a conviction.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey in the month of May, 1744, Robert Fuller, of Harefield, in Middlesex, was indicted for shooting at Francis Bailey, with a gun loaded with powder and small stones, and demanding his money, with intent to rob him.

Mr. Bailey deposed, that as he was returning to Uxbridge market, he saw a man near Harefield sitting on a stile, having a gun in his hand; that he

*jumped off the stile, seized the horse's bridle, clapped the gun to Mr. Bailey's body, and threatened to shoot him. Mr. Bailey said, "That will do you no good, nor me neither;" he then put his hand repeatedly into Bailey's pocket; but the latter would not submit to be robbed, and rode off: on which Fuller immediately shot at him, and wounded him in the right arm, so as to break the bone in splinters; and many stones, and bits of the bone, were afterwards taken out of the arm: nor did the prosecutor recover of the wound till after languishing near twenty weeks.*

The prisoner, however, had not an opportunity of robbing Mr. Bailey, as his horse took fright and ran away at the report of the gun.

The substance of Mr. Bailey's further deposition was, that this happened about seven o'clock in the evening, on the 24th of February; but that, as it was a clear star-light night, he had a full view of the prisoner, whom he had known before.

Bailey was now asked, if he had ever been examined before any justice of the peace in relation to the fact; to which he answered in the negative. He was then asked, if he had never charged the crime on any other person except the prisoner which he steadily denied the having done.

In contradiction to which, a commitment was produced, in which Thomas Bowry was charged with assaulting Francis Bailey, with an intent to rob: and this Bowry was continued in custody on the affidavit of Mr. Mellish, a surgeon, that Mr. Bailey was so ill of the wound he had received, that he could not come to London without danger of his life: but Bowry was discharged at the gaol delivery at the end of the sessions for June, 1743.

The copy of Bowry's commitment was then read, and authenticated by Richard Akernian, clerk of the papers to his father, the then keeper of Newgate.

On this contradictory evidence the characters of both parties were inquired into, when that of the

*prosecutor appeared to be very fair, that of the prisoner rather doubtful.*

Upon considering the whole matter, the jury gave a verdict that he was guilty, but on account of the circumstance above mentioned, relating to the commitment of Bowry for the same offence, on Bailey's oath, they recommended the prisoner to the court, as a proper object of the royal clemency and he was accordingly pardoned.

## PATRICK BOURKE, AND GEORGE ELLIS,

*Executed at Tyburn, February 20, 1745, for sheep-stealing.*

By an act of Parliament passed in the fourteenth year of the reign of King George II. for the security of farmers and graziers, it is thus enacted:

“ If any person or persons, after the first day of May, 1741, shall feloniously drive away, or in any manner, feloniously steal any sheep, or shall wilfully kill one or more sheep, with intent to steal the whole, or any part of the carcasses, the person or persons so offending, shall suffer death, without benefit of clergy.”

This law denounces the punishment of death to any person offending against it, and though the crime is frequently committed, few are executed for sheep-stealing, as the law is seldom put in force owing to the humanity of the judges or the prosecutors, who, probably consider that the offence is committed in consequence of the calls of hunger, and dread of starving.\* The offence of these men were not however of that description, as they destroyed whole flocks, in order to get possession of the fat, and deserved as severe a punishment as any other robbers

Patrick Bourke, and George Ellis, were indicted at the sessions held at the Old Bailey in December, 1744, for killing fifteen ewe sheep, the property of John Messenger, of Kensington, with intention to steal part of the carcasses, to wit, the fat near the kidneys.

Mr. Messenger deposed, that he had lost fifteen ewes; that their throats were cut, their bellies ripped open, and the fat taken out; and likewise said, that he had lost twenty-seven lambs, which were taken out of those ewes; and deposed, that the prisoners both confessed the crime before Sir Thomas Devil on the Tuesday following: and that Bourke acknowledged they sold the fat to a tallow-chandler, for forty-one shillings and two-pence halfpenny.

Richard Twyford proved the finding the sheep ripped open, and the fat taken out; and that the lambs were dragging by the sides of them: and swore that the prisoners had owned the taking the gates from the farm to pen the sheep up.

Joseph Agnew, a constable, swore that Ellis came to him; and after having told him of a quarrel between him and Bourke, who had given him two black eyes, he acknowledged that he had been concerned with him in the commission of the crime abovementioned. Hereupon the constable took with him three watchmen, and going to Bourke's lodgings, seized him in bed, and found a clasp-knife, laying on the ground near the feet of the bed, on which was some fat, which likewise remained when the knife was produced in court on the trial.

Bourke, in his defence, said, that he was kept drunk by the constable, in order to induce him to make a confession; but this not being credited by the jury, and there being other proofs of the fact having been acknowledged, they were capitally convicted, and received sentence of death.

At the summer assizes in 1757, for the county of Lincoln, a deaf and dumb man, called Matthew Pullen, was indicted for sheep-stealing. The court

ordered a jury to be impannelled, not to try him for larceny, but to inquire whether he stood mute by the act of Providence, or through obstinacy. It was proved by his father-in-law, and some neighbours, that from his infancy he was deaf and dumb, and the jury therefore brought in their verdict, "that he stood mute by the act of God," and he was discharged in gaol delivery.

There being no punishment for the deaf and dumb, any more than for those that are proved *non compos mentis*, the actions of both ought to be kept under restraint. This deaf and dumb sheep-stealer, must certainly have been conscious that he was doing wrong when he stole his neighbour's sheep, and it seems unreasonable that he should escape without some punishment, as such a precedent may prove very injurious in its consequences, for it implies that any person who is deaf and dumb is at liberty to steal sheep with impunity.

## WILLIAM CHETWYND,

(A SCHOOL-BOY OF THE CELEBRATED ACADEMY OF  
SOHO-SQUARE,)

*Tried for the murder of his school-fellow, and convicted of manslaughter; a very remarkable case, and by a special verdict left to the opinion of the twelve judges.*

To the following interesting, but distressing narrative, we particularly solicit the attention of the young; hoping, that the example of this unhappy youth, may warn them of the evil consequences of passion, and the danger of indulging resentment when provoked by their companions.

This unfortunate young gentleman was educated

at the academy in Soho-square, and was about 18 years of age at the time the event happened.

At the sessions held in the Old Bailey in October, 1743, he was indicted for the murder of Thomas Rickets, then in the nineteenth year of his age, and was likewise indicted on the statute of stabbing.

Mr. Chetwynd being in possession of a piece of cake, Rickets asked him for some of it, on which he gave him a small piece; but refusing to give him a second, which he desired, he cut off a piece for himself, and laid it on a bureau, while he went to lock up the chief part of the cake for his own use.

In the interim Rickets took the cake which had been left on the bureau, and when Chetwynd returned and demanded it, he refused to deliver it; on which a dispute arose, and Chetwynd having still in his hand the knife with which he had cut the cake, wounded the other in the left side of the belly.

Hannah Humphreys, a servant in the house, coming at that time into the room, Rickets said, that he was stabbed, and complained much of the pain that he felt from the wound; on which Humphreys said to Chetwynd, "You have done very well;" to which the latter replied, "If I have hurt him, I am very sorry for it."

The wounded youth being carried to bed, languished three days under the hands of the surgeons, and then expired. In the interim, Chetwynd, terrified at what had happened, quitted the school; but as soon as he heard of the death of Rickets, he went to a magistrate, to abide the equitable decision of a verdict of his countrymen; and he was brought to his trial at the time and place above-mentioned.

The counsel in behalf of the prisoner acknowledged the great candour of the gentlemen who were concerned for the prosecution, in their not endeavouring to aggravate the circumstances attending the offence. They confessed the truth of all that had been sworn by the witnesses; but insisted, in behalf of the accused party, that though his hand

might have made an unhappy blow, his heart was innocent.

The following is the substance of their arguments on the case: They said that the fact could not amount to murder at common law, which Lord Coke defines to be "an unlawful killing another man aforethought," either expressed by the party, or implied by the law. They said, that in this case, there was not the least malice, as the young gentlemen were friends, not only at the time, but to the close of Ricket's life, when he declared that he forgave the other.

They said, that it being proved that there was a friendship subsisting, it would be talking against the sense of mankind to say the law could imply any thing contrary to what was plainly proved. That deliberation and cruelty of disposition, make the essential difference between manslaughter and murder; and they quoted several legal authorities in support of this doctrine.

One of their arguments was urged in the following words: "Shall the young boy at the bar, who was doing a lawful act, be said to be guilty of murder? He was rescuing what was his own: the witnesses have told you, that after he had given Rickets a piece of cake, Rickets went to him for more; he denied to give it him: he had a right to keep his cake, and the other had no right to take it; and he had a right to retake it.

"There are cases in the books which make a difference between murder and manslaughter. If a man takes up a bar of iron, and throws it at another, it is murder; and the difference in the crime lies between the person's taking it up, and having it in his hand: Chetwynd had the knife in his hand, and upon that a provocation ensues, for he did not take the knife up; if he had, that would have shewn an intention to do mischief. It may be doubted, whether or no when he had this knife in his hand for a lawful purpose, and in an instant struck the

other, whether he considered he had the knife in his hand; for if in his passion he intended to strike with his hand, it is not a striking with the knife.

“That it was to be considered, whether there was not evidence to except this case from the letter of the statute 1, Jame I.”

The other arguments of counsel were to the following purpose:

“At the beginning of the fray, Rickets had a knife in his hand; and it was one continued act. And another question is, whether there was not a struggle; here was the cake taken, and in endeavouring to get it again, this accident happens; at the first taking of the cake, it is in evidence, that Chetwynd was not forced to extend his arms, unless the other was coming to take it from him, and then a struggle is a blow.

“This act of the 1 James I. was made for a particular purpose: on the union of the two kingdoms, there were national factions and jealousies, when wicked persons, to conceal the malice lurking in their hearts; would suddenly stab others, and screen themselves from the law, by having the act looked upon as the result of an immediate quarrel. That this statute has been always looked upon as a hard law, and therefore always construed by the judges, in favour of the prisoner. That when the fact only amounts to manslaughter at common law, it has been the custom of the court to acquit upon this statute.

“The counsel for the crown, in reply, submitted it to the court, whether (since the only points insisted on by way of defence for the prisoner, were questions at law, in which the jury were to be guided by their opinion,) the facts proved and admitted did not clearly, in the first place, amount to murder at common law; and in the second place, whether there could be the least doubt in point of law, but that the case was within the statute of 1 James I.

“Upon the first it was admitted, that to constitute murder there must be malice.

“ But it was argued, that malice was of two kinds, either expressed and in fact, or implied by law.

“ But when one person kills another without provocation, it is murder, because the law presumes and implies malice from the act done. And therefore, whenever any person kills another it is murder, unless some sufficient provocation appear. But it is not every provocation that extenuates the killing of a man from murder into manslaughter. A slight or trivial provocation is the same as none, and is not allowed in law to be any justification or excuse for the death of another. And therefore no words of reproach or infamy, whatever provoking circumstances they may be attended with; no affronting gestures, or deriding postures, however insolent or malicious, are allowed to be put in balance with the life of a man, and to extenuate the offence from murder to manslaughter.

“ For the same reason, no sudden quarrel upon a sudden provocation, shall justify such an act of cruelty as one man's stabbing another, though it be done immediately in the heat of passion. As if two persons, playing at tables, fall out in their game, and the one upon a sudden kills the other with a dagger; this was held to be murder by Bromley, at Chester assizes.

“ In like manner, no trespass on lands or goods shall be allowed to be any excuse for one man's attacking another in such a manner as apparently endangers his life, and could not be intended merely as a chastisement for his offence; because no violent acts beyond the proportion of the provocation receive countenance from the law.

“ And, therefore, if a man beats another for trespassing upon his goods or lands, and does not desist, he will be justified by law; because what he does is only in defence of his property, and no more than a chastisement to the offender.

“ But (says the Lord Chief Justice Holt,) if one man be trespassing upon another, breaking his

hedges, or the like, and the owner, or his servant, shall upon sight thereof, take up a hedge stake, and knock him on the head, that will be murder; because it is a violent act beyond the proportion of the provocation.

“ That applying the rules of law to the present case, it was plain, that the violent act done, bore no proportion to the provocation. All the provocation given was taking up a piece of cake, which is not such an offence, as can justify the prisoner’s attacking the person who took it up, with an instrument, that apparently endangered his life, or rather carried certain death along with it.

“ On the second indictment it was said, that the counsel for the prisoner had in effect contended, that the statute 1 James I. should never be allowed to comprehend any one case whatsoever, or extend to any one offender, which would entirely frustrate that statute; since it was only made in order to exclude such persons who stabbed others upon the sudden, from the benefit of clergy: and was intended as a sort of correction to the common law, by restraining such offenders through fear of due punishment, who were emboldened by presuming on the benefit of clergy, allowed by the common law. But if it is to exclude none from their clergy, who at common law would have been entitled to it, it can never have any effect, and may be as well repealed.

“ And if the statute is to have any force or effect at all, there can be no doubt but it must extend to the present case. It is expressly within the words: Mr. Rickets was stabbed, having then no weapon drawn in his hand, and not having before struck the person who stabbed him. It is plainly within the intention; which is declared in the preamble to have been in order to punish stabbing or killing upon the sudden, committed in rage, or any other passion of the mind, &c. and therefore it was submitted to the court, whether upon the facts proved and not denied, the consequence of the law was not clear

that the prisoner was guilty within both indictments."

Mr. Baron Reynolds and Mr. Recorder, before whom the prisoner was tried, taking notice of the points of law that had arisen, the learned arguments of the counsel, and the many cases cited upon this occasion, were of opinion, that it would be proper to have the facts found specially, that they might be put in a way of receiving a more solemn determination.

A special verdict was accordingly agreed on by all parties, and drawn up in the usual manner, viz. by giving a true state of the facts as they appeared in evidence, and concluding thus: "We find that the deceased was about the age of 19, and Mr. Chetwynd about the age of 15; and that of this wound the deceased died on the 29th of the said September; but whether upon the whole, the prisoner is guilty of all, or any of the said indictment, the jurors submit to the judgment of the court."

In consequence of this special verdict, the case was argued before the twelve judges, who deemed Chetwynd to have been guilty of manslaughter only; whereupon he was set at liberty, after being burnt in the hand.

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## MARTHA TRACY,

*Executed at Tyburn, February 16, 1745, for a street robbery.*

THE melancholy fate of this unfortunate woman is another instance of the misery occasioned by that licentiousness, which is of all vices the most destructive of the happiness of females, and so disgraceful to the British metropolis.

This much injured woman was a native of Bristol,  
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and descended from poor parents, who educated her in the best manner in their power. Getting a place in the service of a merchant, when she was sixteen years of age, she lived with him three years, and then came to London.

Having procured a place in a house where lodgings were let to single gentlemen, and being a girl of an elegant appearance, and fond of dress, she was liable to a variety of temptations.

Her vanity being even greater than her beauty, she at length conceived that she had made a conquest of one of the gentlemen lodgers, and was foolish enough to think he would marry her.

With a view of keeping alive the passion she thought she had inspired, she sought every pretence of going into his chamber, and he having some designs against her virtue, purchased her some new clothes, in which she went to church on the following Sunday, where she was observed by her mistress.

On their return from church, her mistress strictly inquired how she came to be possessed of such fine clothes; and having learnt the real state of the case, she was discharged from her service on the Monday morning.

As she still thought the gentleman intended marriage, she wrote to him, desiring he would meet her at a public-house; and on his attending, she wept incessantly, and complained of the treatment she had met with from her mistress, which she attributed to the presents she had received from him.

The seducer advised her to calm her spirits, and go into lodgings which he would immediately provide for her, and where he could securely visit her till the marriage should take place.

Deluded by this artifice, she went that day to lodge at a house in the Strand, which he said was kept by a lady who was related to him. In this place he visited her on the following and several successive days; attending her to public places, and making her presents of elegant clothes, which effectually

flattered her vanity, and lulled asleep the small remains of her virtue.

It is needless to say that her ruin followed. After a connection of a few months, she found him less frequent in his visits; and informing him that she was with child, demanded that he would make good his promise of marriage: on which he declared that he had never intended to marry her, and that he would not maintain her any longer; and hinted that she should seek another lodging.

On the following day the mistress of the house told her that she must not remain there any longer, unless she would pay for her lodgings in advance, which being unable to do, or perhaps unwilling to remain in a house where she had been so unworthily treated, she packed up her effects, and removed to another lodging.

When she was brought to bed, the father took away the infant, and left the wretched mother in a very distressed situation. Having subsisted for some time by pawning her clothes, she was at length so reduced as to listen to the advice of a woman of the town, who persuaded her to procure a subsistence by the casual wages of prostitution.

Having embarked in this horrid course of life, she soon became a common street-walker, and experienced all those calamities incident to so deplorable a situation. Being sometimes tempted to pick pockets for a subsistence, she became an occasional visitor at Bridewell, where her mind grew only the more corrupt by the conversation of the abandoned wretches confined in that place.

The crime for which she forfeited her life to the violated laws of her country, was as follows:

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in the month of January, 1745, she was indicted for robbing William Humphreys of a guinea on the king's highway.

Passing at midnight, near Northumberland-house in the Strand, she accosted Mr. Humphreys, who

declining to hold any correspondence with her, two fellows with whom she was connected came up, and one of them knocking him down, they both ran away; when she robbed him of a guinea which she concealed in her mouth: but Mr. Humphreys seizing her, and two persons coming up, she was conducted to the watch-house, where the guinea was found in her mouth, by the constable of the night.

She was indicted for this offence at the sessions held in the Old Bailey, January 1745, and on her trial it was proved that she had called the men, one of whom knocked down the prosecutor; so that there could be no doubt of her being an accomplice with them; whereupon the jury brought her in guilty.

After conviction she behaved with the greatest propriety, apparently under a proper sense of her former guilt, and died a sincere penitent, lamenting that pride of heart which had first seduced her to destruction.

## MATTHEW HENDERSON,

*Executed in Oxford-street, Feb. 25, 1746, for one of the most premeditated and cruel murders in our whole Calendar.*

IN this man's mind we find an extraordinary instance of the struggle between conscience and revenge. His mistress, however she might overstep the character of her sex, and disgrace him by a blow, did not deserve punishment at his hands.

He was the son of honest parents, and born at North Berwick, in Scotland, where he was educated in the liberal manner customary in that country.

Sir Hugh Dalrymple, being a member of the British Parliament, took Henderson into his service, when 14 years of age, and brought him to London.

Before he was 19 years old, he married one of his master's maids; but Sir Hugh, who had a great regard for him, did not dismiss him, though he was greatly chagrined at this circumstance.

Some few days before the commission of the murder, Sir Hugh having occasion to go out of town for a month, summoned Henderson to assist in dressing him: and while he was thus employed, Sir Hugh's lady going into the room, the servant casually trod on her toe. She said not a word on the occasion, but looked at him with a degree of rage, that made him extremely uneasy.

When Sir Hugh had taken his leave, she demanded of Henderson, why he had trod on her toe; in answer to which he made many apologies, and ascribed the circumstance to mere accident; but she gave him a blow on the ear, and declared that she would dismiss him from her service.

Henderson said, it would be unnecessary to turn him away for he would go without compulsion; but reflecting that her passion would soon subside, he continued in his place; and was used with as much kindness as if the accident had not taken place.

Offended at the insult that had been offered him, Henderson began to consider how he should be revenged, and at length came to the fatal resolution of murdering his mistress.

For the particulars of this barbarous deed, we refer to his confession in Newgate, taken in writing by the ordinary, the day before his execution.

He first expresses a lively and suitable sense of his condition, and calls God to witness, that this account contains the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

He says he was born in the town of North Berwick, in Scotland, and was 19 years of age; his father was still living, and accounted a very honest, industrious man; his education was the best his father could afford, and his character, before this fact, blameless; his mother has been dead several years,

which he mentions with satisfaction, because as she loved him tenderly, he believed this affair would certainly have broken her heart..

He had lived with his master five years, about three years in Scotland, and two years in London, and declares no servant could be better used than he was, and that he never had the least dislike to the deceased, for that she was a lady of great humanity, and greatly respected by all her servants; and his master a most worthy gentleman.

On March 25, 1746, about eleven at night, Mary Platt, the maid-servant, told him, she would go and see her husband, and he said she might do as she pleased: she went, and took the key to let herself in again; he shut the door after her, and went and cleaned some plate in the kitchen. From thence he went up into the back parlour, where he used to lie, and let down his bed, in order to go to sleep. He pulled off his shoes, and tied up his hair with his garter, and that moment the thought came into his head to kill his lady. He went down stairs into the kitchen, and took a small iron cleaver, and came into his bed-chamber again, and sat down on his bed about twenty minutes considering whether he should commit the murder. His heart relented, and he thought he could not do it, because he had never received any affront; he however concluded to do it, as there was none in the house but the deceased and himself.

He went up to the first landing place on the stairs, and after tarrying a minute or two, came down, shocked at the crime he was about to perpetrate. He sat down on his bed for a little while, and then went up again, as far as the dining-room, but was again so shocked that he could not proceed, and came down again, and sat on his bed some minutes, and had almost determined within himself not to commit the murder; but, he says, the devil was very busy with him, and that he was in such agonies as cannot be expressed. He went up again as far as

the first window, and the watchman was going—"past twelve o'clock."

After the watchman had passed the door, and all was silent, he came down two or three steps, but presently went up again as far as his lady's room-door, having the cleaver all the time in his hand; and opened it, not being locked; he went into the room, but could not kill her; he was in great fear and terror: and went out of the room, as far as the stair-head, about three yards from her chamber-door, but immediately returned with a full resolution to murder her.

He entered the room a second time, went to the bed-side, undrew the curtains, and found she was fast asleep. He went twice from the bed to the door in great perplexity of mind, the deceased being still asleep; he had no candle, and believes if there had been a light, he could not have committed the murder. He continued in great agonies, but soon felt where she lay, and made twelve or fourteen motions with the cleaver, before he struck her.

The first blow he missed, but the second he struck her on the head, and she endeavoured to get out of bed on that side next the door, and when he struck her again, she moved to the other side of the bed, and spoke several words which he can't remember. He repeated his blows, and in struggling she fell out of bed next the window, and then he thought it was time to put her out of her misery, and struck her with all his might as she lay on the floor; she bled very much, and he cut the curtains in several places when he missed his blows.

All the words she said, when he struck her the third or fourth blow, were, "O Lord, what is this!" She rattled in her throat very much, and he was so frightened, that he ran down stairs, and threw the chopping-knife into the privy.

He then went into his bed-chamber again, and sat down on his bed for about ten minutes, when it came into his head to rob the house, which he solemnly

declares he had no intention to do, before he committed the murder.

When he had determined to rob the house, he directly struck a light, went into the deceased's bed-chamber, and took her pockets, as they were hanging on the chair, and took a gold watch, two diamond rings out of the drawers, with several other things, but does not remember all the particulars; she was not dead then, but rattled very much in the throat, and he was so surprised, that he scarcely knew what he did, and would have given ten thousand worlds could he have recalled what he had done.

When he had taken what he thought proper, he went out of the street door and fastened it with a piece of cord, and when he came into the street, he was so terrified that he could scarcely walk; he went into Holborn, where his wife lodged, and all the way he went he thought his murdered lady followed him. The watchman was going—"past one o'clock," as he was going along Holborn, so that he was near a full hour in committing this most horrid deed.

He put what things he had taken into a box at his wife's lodgings, who asked him what he did there at that time of the night, and several other questions; to all which he answered, it was no business of hers; he solemnly declares his wife and every other person entirely innocent and ignorant of the fact.

He did not stay here more than a quarter of an hour; and then returned to his master's; but by endeavouring to break the string with which he had fastened the door, he shut himself out, so that he was obliged to wait till the maid came home, which was about six o'clock; he told her that he had been to get some shirts that were mending, and had locked himself out.

The maid, on opening the windows, first below, and then above, by degrees discovered that there had been a robbery, and by some blood on the stairs, suspected her lady was killed. She told him, from

time to time what things she missed as she went about the house, and lastly, with the blood on the stairs ; on which he desired she would go into her lady's room, and see if it was really so ; she consented, and he went to the door with her, she came out presently, 'crying out, " It is so ! it is so ! " He then went and acquainted a gentleman who was nephew to his master, that somebody had broke into the house, and he suspected the maid, who had been out all night, and took her before the justice first, who thought proper, on hearing her examination, to send for him. He was very ready to go, and declares he had no thought of escaping, though he had great opportunity so to do.

He at first denied the facts, and accused two innocent persons ; but being very much confounded by the cross questions then put to him, he at length confessed the fact. He appeals to all that knew him for the irreproachableness of his life before this happened, and again declares himself alone guilty of, and privy to the murder, and that he was not prompted by either malice or interest, and never thought of committing so dreadful a crime, till a quarter of an hour before the perpetration of it.

Considering the manner in which this murder was committed, the sex and station of the person murdered, and the obligations of the murderer, it is one of the most horrid and aggravated that has ever occurred, and presents a striking instance of the agitation attending a man's first act of villainy, and of the terrors which haunt the conscience of the murderer.

The above solemn declaration is most extraordinary, and is a lamentable proof of the wickedness and weakness of man, when unassisted by the grace of God, and of the difficulty of resisting the suggestions of our evil passions, especially revenge, and should lead us to be particularly cautious in guarding against the very first temptation.

## HENRY SIMMS.

*Executed at Tyburn, after returning from transportation, for highway robbery.*

DISOBEDIENCE to parents generally leads to an ignominious fate. This man, losing his father at a tender age, ought to be doubly grateful to his grandmother, who took the care of him upon herself; instead of which, we shall find him, while yet a boy, robbing his benefactress.

Henry Simms was born in the parish of St. Martin's-in-the-fields, London, and was soon, as we have already observed, a helpless orphan. His grandmother, who was a dissenter, sent him first to a school kept by a clergyman of her own persuasion; but as he frequently ran away, she placed him at an academy in St. James's parish, where he became a proficient in writing and arithmetic, and was likewise a tolerable Latin and French scholar.

Before the boy had completed his tenth year, he gave a specimen of his dishonest disposition. His grandmother taking him with her, on a visit to a tradesman's house, he stole twenty shillings from the till in the shop; which being observed by the maid-servant, she informed her master; and the money being found on the youth, he was severely punished.

He now began to keep from home on nights, and associated with the vilest of company, in the pur-lieus of St. Giles's. His companions advising him to rob his grandmother, he stole 17*l.* from her, and taking his best apparel, repaired to St. Giles's, where his new acquaintance made him drunk, put him to bed, and then robbed him of his money and clothes.

On his waking he covered himself with some rags he found in the room, and after strolling through the streets in search of the villains, went into an ale-house, the landlord of which, hearing his tale, inter-

ceded with his grandmother to take him again under her protection. To this, after some hesitation, she consented; and buying a chain with a padlock, she had him fastened during the day-time to the kitchen-grate, and at night he slept with a man who was directed to take care that he did not escape.

After a month of confinement he had his liberty granted him, and new clothes purchased, with which he immediately went among some young thieves who were tossing up for money in St. Giles's. On the approach of night they took him to a brick-kiln near Tottenham-court-road, where they broiled some steaks, and supped in concert; and were soon joined by some women, who brought some geneva, with which the whole company regaled themselves.

Simms, falling asleep, was robbed of his clothes; and when the brick-makers came to work in the morning, they found him in his shirt only; and while they were conducting him towards town, he was met by his grandmother's servant, who was in search of him, and conveyed him to her house.

Notwithstanding his former behaviour, the old lady received him kindly, and placed him with a breeches-maker, who having corrected him for his ill behaviour, he ran away, and taking his best clothes from his grandmother's house in her absence, sold them to a Jew, and spent the money in extravagance.

The old gentlewoman now went to live at the house of Lady Stanhope, whither the graceless boy followed her, and being refused admittance, he broke several of the windows. This in some measure, compelled his grandmother to admit him; but that very night he robbed the house of as many things as produced him nine pounds, which he carried to a barn in Marybone-fields, and spent it among his dissolute companions.

For this offence he was apprehended, and, after some hesitation, confessed where he had sold the effects. From this time his grandmother gave him

up as incorrigible ; and being soon afterwards apprehended as a pickpocket, he was discharged for want of evidence.

Simms now associated with the worst of company ; but after a narrow escape on a charge of being concerned in sending a threatening letter to extort money, and two of his comrades being transported for other offences, he seemed deterred from continuing his evil courses ; and thereupon wrote to his grandmother, entreating her further protection.

Still anxious to save him from destruction, she prevailed on a friend to take him into his house, where for some time he behaved regularly ; but getting among his old associates, they robbed a gentleman of his watch and money, and threw him into a ditch in Marybone-fields : when some persons accidentally coming up, prevented his destruction.

Two more of Simms's companions being now transported, he hired himself to an inn-keeper as a driver of a post-chaise ; and after that lived as postillion to a nobleman, but was soon discharged on account of his irregular conduct.

Having received some wages, he went again among the thieves, who dignified him with the title of *Gentleman Harry*, on account of his presumed skill, and the gentility of his appearance.

Simms now became intimately acquainted with a woman who lived with one of his accomplices, in revenge for which the fellow procured both him and the woman to be taken into custody on a charge of felony ; and they were committed to Newgate ; but the court paying no regard to the credibility of the witnesses, the prisoners were acquitted.

Soon after his discharge, Simms robbed a gentleman of his watch and 17*l.* on Blackheath ; and likewise robbed a lady of a considerable sum near the same spot. Being followed to Lewisham, he was obliged to quit his horse, when he presented two pistols to his pursuers ; by which he intimi

midated them so as to effect his escape, though with the loss of his horse.

Repairing to London, he bought another horse, and travelling into Northamptonshire, and putting up at an inn at Towcester, learnt that a military gentleman had hired a chaise for London; on which he followed the chaise the next morning, and kept up with it for several miles. At length the gentleman observing him, said, "Dont ride so hard, sir, you'll soon ride away your whole estate;" to which Simms replied, "Indced I shall not, for it lays in several counties;" and instantly quitting his horse, he robbed the gentleman of 102 guineas.

He now hastened to London, and having dissipated his ill-acquired money at a gaming table, he rode out towards Hounslow, and meeting the postilion who had driven the abovementioned gentleman in Northamptonshire, he gave him five shillings, begging he would not take notice of having seen him.

A reward being at length offered for apprehending Simms, he entered on board a privateer; but being soon weary of a sea-faring life, he deserted, and enlisted for a soldier. While in this station he knocked out the eye of a woman at a house of ill fame; for which he was apprehended, and lodged in New Prison.

Soon after this, Justice De Veil admitted him an evidence against some felons, his accomplices, who were transported, and Simms regained his liberty.

Being apprehended for robbing a baker's shop, he was convicted, and being sentenced to be transported, was accordingly shipped on board one of the transport vessels, which sailing round to the Isle of Wight, he formed a plan for seizing the captain and effecting an escape: but as a strict watch was kept on him, it was not possible for him to carry this plan into execution.

The ship arriving at Maryland, Simms was sold for twelve guineas, but he found an early opportu-

nity of deserting from the purchaser. Having learnt that his master's horse was left tied to a gate at some distance from the dwelling-house, he privately decamped in the night, and rode thirty miles in four hours, through extremely bad roads; so powerfully was he impelled by his fears.

He now found himself by the sea-side, and, turning the horse loose, he hailed a vessel just under sail, from which a boat was sent to bring him on board. As hands were very scarce, the captain offered him six guineas, which were readily accepted, to work his passage to England.

There being at this time a war between England and France, the ship was taken by a French privateer; but soon afterwards ransomed; and Simms entered on board a man of war, where his diligence promoted him to the rank of a midshipman; but the ship had no sooner arrived at Plymouth than he quitted his duty, and travelling to Bristol, spent the little money he possessed in the most dissipated manner.

His next step was to enter himself on board a coasting vessel at Bristol, but he had not been long at sea before, on a dispute with the captain, he threatened to throw him overboard, and would have carried his threats into execution, if the other seamen had not prevented him. Simms asked for his wages when the ship returned to port; but the captain threatening imprisonment for his ill behaviour at sea, he decamped with only eight shillings in his possession.

Fertile in contrivances, he borrowed a bridle and saddle, and having stolen a horse near a field in the city, he went once more on the highway, and taking the road to London, robbed the passengers in the Bristol coach, those in another carriage, and a single lady and gentleman, and repaired to London with the booty he had acquired.

Having put up the stolen horse at an inn in White-chapel, and soon afterwards seeing it advertised, he

was afraid to fetch it; on which he stole another horse; but as he was riding through Tyburn Turnpike, the keeper knowing the horse, brought the rider to the ground. .

Hereupon Simms presented a pistol, and threatened the man with instant death if he presumed to detain him. By this daring mode of proceeding he obtained his liberty, and having made a tour round the fields, he entered London by another road.

On the following day he went to Kingston-upon-Thames where he stole a horse; and robbed several people on his return to London; and the day afterwards robbed seven farmers of 18*l*. His next depredations were on Epping Forest, where he committed five robberies in one day, but soon spent what he thus gained among women of ill fame. '

Thinking it unsafe to remain longer in London, he set out with a view of going to Ireland; but had rode only to Barnet, when he crossed the country to Harrow on the Hill, where he robbed a gentleman named Sleep, of his money and watch, and would have taken his wig, but the other said it was of no value, and hoped, as it was cold weather, his health might not be endangered by being deprived of it.

The robber threatened Mr. Sleep's life unless he would swear never to take any notice of the affair; but this the gentleman absolutely refused. Hereupon Simms said, that if he had not robbed him, two other persons would: and told him to say, "Thomas," if he should meet any people on horseback.

Soon after this Mr. Sleep, meeting two men whom he presumed to be accomplices of the highwayman, cried out, "Thomas:" but the travellers paying no regard to him, he was confirmed in his suspicions, and rode after them; and, on his arrival at Hoddesdon Green, he found several other persons, all of them in pursuit of the highwayman.

In the mean time Simms rode forward, and robbed the St. Alban's stage; after which he went as far as Hockliffe; but being now greatly fatigued, he fell

asleep in the kitchen of an inn, whither he was pursued by some light horsemen from St. Albans, who took him into custody.

Being confined for that night, he was carried in the morning before a magistrate, who committed him to Bedford gaol. By an unaccountable neglect, his pistol had not been taken from him, and on his way to prison he attempted to shoot one of his guards: but the pistol missing fire, his hands were tied behind him; and when he arrived at the prison, he was fastened to the floor, with an iron collar round his neck.

Being removed to London by a writ of habeas corpus, he was lodged in Newgate, where he was visited, from motives of curiosity, by numbers of people, whom he amused with a narrative of his having been employed to shoot the king.

On this he was examined before the Duke of Newcastle, then Secretary of State: but his whole story bearing evident marks of a fiction, he was remanded to Newgate, to take his trial at the ensuing Old Bailey sessions.

Ten indictments were preferred against him: but being convicted for the robbery of Mr. Sleep, it was not thought necessary to arraign him on any other of the indictments.

After conviction he behaved with great unconcern, and, in some instances, with insolence. Having given a fellow-prisoner a violent blow, he was chained to the floor. He appeared shocked when the warrant for his execution arrived; but soon resuming his former indifference, he continued it even to the moment of execution, when he behaved in the most thoughtless manner.

He was hanged at Tyburn, on the 16th of November, 1747.

THE  
SECOND REBELLION IN FAVOUR OF THE  
PRETENDER,

IN THE YEAR 1745.

WHEN England was attacked the second time by the disaffected Scotelmen, she was involved in an expensive war with France. Her armies were fighting under the Duke of Cumberland, in Germany, and her fleets were employed in watching the motions of their enemy, and when the rebellion broke out the king was at Hanover.

The French thinking this a favourable time to wound the internal peace of Britain, espoused the cause of the Pretender, as he appeared an excellent instrument for that purpose. The government was not apprised of the preparations making to assist the Pretender, and the first notice which the British public had of it, was from a paragraph in the General Evening Post, which stated that, "The Pretender's eldest son put to sea, July 14, from France; in an armed ship of sixty guns, provided with a large quantity of warlike stores, together with a frigate of thirty guns, and a number of smaller armed vessels, in order to land in Scotland, where he expected to find twenty thousand men in arms, to make good his pretensions to the crown of Great Britain. He was to be joined by five ships of the line from Brest, and four thousand five hundred Spaniards were embarking at Ferrok"

Through different channels this news was confirmed, and created in the nation the utmost alarm. King George II. on being apprised of it, instantly prepared to return; and arrived in London on the 31st of August, amid the acclamations of his loyal subjects, and a discharge of artillery.

The Pretender, followed by about fifty Scotch and Irish adventurers, came privately through Normandy, and on the 18th of July, embarked on board a ship of 18 guns, which was joined off Belleisle by the Elizabeth and other ships. They intended to have sailed north-about, and land in Scotland. On the 20th they came up with an English fleet of merchant vessels, under the convoy of the Lion man of war, of 58 guns, commanded by Captain Brett; who immediately bore down upon the French line of battle ship, which he engaged within pistol-shot five hours, and was constantly annoyed by the smaller ships of the enemy. The rigging of the Lion was cut to pieces, her mizen-mast, mizen top-mast, main-yard, and fore-top-sail, were shot away; all her lower-masts, and top-masts shot through in many places, so that she lay muzzled in the sea, and could do nothing with her sails. Thus situated the French ships sheered off, and the Lion could make no effort to follow them. Captain Brett had 45 men killed; himself, all his lieutenants, the master, several midshipmen, and 107 foremast-men wounded. His principal antagonist, the Elizabeth, with difficulty got back to Brest, quite disabled, and had sixty-four men killed 139 dangerously wounded, and a number more slightly. She had on board 400,000<sup>l</sup>. sterling, and arms and ammunition for several thousand men.

The French court pretended to be ignorant of the expedition thus miscarrying. Meanwhile, the Camerons, the Macdonalds, and many other clans, were in arms, in expectation of their friends from France. They came down into the low lands in parties, and carried off by force, many men to fill their ranks, and committed various disorders.

The Pretender having embarked in another ship, again sailed from France, and having eluded the English cruisers, landed with his followers on the Isle of Sky, opposite to Lochabar, in the county of Inverness, about the end of July, and took up his

abode at the house of a Papist priest, with whom he remained three weeks, while his emissaries were raising men for his service. At length at the head of about two thousand he began his march under a standard, on which was the motto, "TANDEM TRIUMPHANS."—" *At length triumphant.*"

The rebels now marched towards Fort William, where the Pretender published a manifesto, which his father had signed at Rome: containing abundant promises to such as would adhere to his cause; two of which were, a dissolution of the union between the two kingdoms, and a payment of the national debt.

This circumstance induced many of the ignorant country people to flock to his standard, till at length his undisciplined rabble began to assume the appearance of an army, which struck terror to the well-affected wherever it came.

These transactions, however, did not pass so secretly, but that the Governor of Fort William informed the Lord Justice Clerk of Edinburgh, of all he could learn of the affair; on which the latter dispatched an express to the north, ordering the assistance of all officers, civil and military.

The governor of Fort William having received these orders, dispatched two companies of St. Clair's and Murray's regiments of foot, to oppose the rebels. They were attacked by a far superior number of Highlanders, which they contended against, until they fired all their ammunition; after which they were attacked in front, flank, and rear, and near half their number killed, before they surrendered. Captain Scott, their brave commander, was wounded; but the rebels gave him and his remaining officers their parole of honour, the private soldiers were sent to prison.

In the interim, the Lord Justice Clerk ordered Sir John Cope, commander in chief of the forces in the south of Scotland, to march against the rebels; but in making the circuit of the immense mountains

of Argyleshire, he missed the rebels ; on which he went to Inverness, to refresh his troops after the fatigue of the march.

The rebels proceeded to Perth, and having taken possession of that place, the Pretender issued his orders for all persons who were in possession of public money, to pay it into the hands of his secretary, whose receipts should be a full acquittal for the same.

The numbers of the rebels now greatly increased, and in September the Pretender issued a proclamation. The provost and magistrates left the city, and others were immediately appointed in their room. Here the rebels were joined by the Duke of Perth, Lord George Murray, Lord Nairn, the Hon. William Murray, Mr. Oliphant, and his son, George Kelly, Esq. the Bishop of Rochester, and several other Scotch gentlemen of influence, with their followers, making a formidable army.

The official papers distributed began thus : " Charles Prince of Wales, and Regent of Scotland, England, France, and Ireland, and of the dominions thereto belonging."

In the mean time General Cope sent from Inverness an express to Aberdeen, for the transport-vessels in that harbour to be ready to receive his troops ; and embarking on the 18th of September, he disembarked them at Dunbar.

During these transactions General Guest, who commanded the castle of Edinburgh, gave the magistrates of that city several pieces of cannon for the defence of the place ; and Colonel James Gardiner repaired from Stirling to Edinburgh, with two regiments of dragoons ; but learning that General Cope had landed at Dunbar, which is 27 miles east of Edinburgh, he proceeded to effect a junction with that general.

On the 7th another party of rebels took possession of the town of Dundee, proclaimed the Pretender, searched for arms, and levied money on the

inhabitants, giving receipts for the same. They seized a ship, and steered her to Perth, supposing there was gunpowder on board. On the 11th they left Perth, and marched that day to Dumblaine, 20 miles; but the next day only two—to Down. They crossed the Forth at the fords of Frews, on the 13th, General Blakeney having destroyed the bridge, and directed their march towards Glasgow; but the next day they turned to the eastward, and marched by Falkirk to Cullington, four miles from Edinburgh.

The following day the Pretender proceeded through the Royal Park, and took possession of Holyrood-house. The money in the bank of Edinburgh, and the records in the public offices, were now removed to the castle for security, and the gates of the city were kept fast during the whole day; but five hundred of the rebels having concealed themselves in the suburbs, took an opportunity, at four o'clock the next morning, to follow a coach which was going in, and seizing the gate called the Netherbow, they maintained their ground while the body reached the centre of the city, and formed themselves in the Parliament Close.

Thus possessed of the capital, they seized two thousand stand of arms, and, on the following day, marched to oppose the Royal army, under the command of General Cope; and the two armies being within sight of each other, near Preston Pans, on the evening of the 20th, Colonel Gardiner earnestly recommended it to the general to attack them during the night; but deaf to this advice, he kept the men under arms till morning, though they were already greatly harassed.

At five in the morning the rebels made a furious attack on the Royal army, and threw them into unspeakable confusion, by two regiments of dragoons falling back on the foot. Colonel Gardiner, with 500 foot, behaved with uncommon valour, and covered the retreat of those who fled; but the colonel

receiving a mortal wound, the rebels made prisoners of the rest of the king's troops.

The following account of this disaster was issued from Whitehall, London :

“ By an express arrived this morning, we are informed that Sir John Cope, with the troops under his command, were attacked by the rebels on the 21st instant, at day-break, near Preston Pans, near Seaton, seven miles from Edinburgh ; that the king's troops were defeated, and that Sir John Cope, with about 450 dragoons, had retired to Lauder ; Brigadier Fawkes and Colonel Lasselles, had got to Lauder. The Earls of Loudon and Hume, were at Dundee with Sir John Cope.”

The loss sustained by the king's troops was,

Killed	-	-	-	-	600
Wounded	-	-	-	-	450
Taken prisoners	-				520

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Total - 1270

The rebels did not lose more than fifty men.

Flushed with this partial victory, the rebels returned in high spirits to Edinburgh. They now sent foraging parties through the country, with orders to seize all the horses and waggons they could find : and, in the interim, a party of the insurgents attempted to throw up an intrenchment on the castle-hill. Hereupon the governor, necessitated to oppose the assailants, yet anxious for the safety of the inhabitants, sent a messenger in the night, to intimate to those who lived near the castle-hill, that they would do well to remove out of danger.

As soon as it was day-light, the battery of the rebels was destroyed, by a discharge of the great cannon from the Half-moon, and thirty of them killed, with three of the inhabitants, who had rashly ventured near the spot.

The governor being greatly deficient in provisions, a gentleman ordered 50 fine bullocks to be driven into the city on a pretence that they were for the

use of the rebels; and the person who drove them leaving them on the castle-hill, the governor and 500 men sallied forth and drove them in at the gate, while the rebels played their artillery with unremitting fury.

While the rebels continued in Edinburgh, which was about seven weeks, some noblemen and their adherents joined them; so that their army amounted to almost ten thousand men. They now levied large contributions, not only in Edinburgh, but through the adjacent country; and those who furnished them received receipts, signed, "CHARLES, Prince Regent."

The officers taken at the battle of Preston Pans, were admitted to their parole, but the privates were ill treated. Their allowance was only three-half-pence each per day, and their prison filthy, and destitute of accommodations. This cruelty was practised in order to cause them to enlist under the banner of the Pretender; besides which they were promised the best treatment, new clothing, and five guineas per man, on their "*taking St. James's Palace*." One hundred and twenty, oppressed by hunger, and tempted by the prospect of gain turned rebels and Papists, and thus forfeited their honour and their lives; for those that were not killed in the various engagements which took place before the rebellion could be quelled, fell into the hands of their injured countrymen, and not a man of them survived.

About this time some ships from France arrived in the Forth, laden with ammunition; and a person who attended the Pretender was dignified with the title of ambassador from his most Christian Majesty.

General Wade had now the command of some forces which had reached Yorkshire; and some Dutch troops being sent to augment his forces, he marched to Newcastle, with a view to deter the rebels from entering the southern part of the kingdom.

That celebrated prelate, the late Dr. Herring,

archbishop of York, distinguished himself gloriously on this occasion. Joining with the high-sheriff to assemble the freeholders, the archbishop preached an animated sermon to them; and then the several parties agreed, to assist each other in support of their civil and religious rights. Many people in Yorkshire were prevented from engaging in the rebellion by this spirited and well-timed conduct.

The Lord President Forbes, and the Earl of Loudon, acted in a manner equally zealous in Scotland. Having collected a number of the loyal Highlanders into a body, many others who would have joined the rebels were thereby deterred.

The rebels quitted Edinburgh in the beginning of November, marched to Dalkeith where they encamped; and a report was circulated that they proposed to make an attack on Berwick; but this was only a contrivance to conceal their real designs.

In the meantime more than a thousand of the rebels deserted, in consequence of General Wade's publishing a pardon to such as would return to their duty as good subjects, within a limited time. Still, however, they had above eight thousand men able to bear arms, whom General Wade would have marched to attack, but his soldiers were ill of the flux, owing to the severity of the season, and the fatigues they had undergone.

Emboldened by success, and their force increased, the rebels now determined to penetrate into England. On Saturday, the 9th of October, about three o'clock in the afternoon, the inhabitants of the city of Carlisle, were thrown into the greatest alarm, at seeing a body of them on Stanwix-bank, within a quarter of a mile of them; and it being market-day there, they mixed with the country people returning home, so that it was impossible for the garrison to fire upon them; but in less than half an hour the country people dispersed themselves, and then the garrison fired upon them, and killed several; but night coming on, they retreated to a

greater distance from the city and the garrison stood all night under arms. At two in the morning a thick fog came on, which remained till twelve that day, when it cleared up for about an hour, and then the garrison discovered the rebels approaching to attack the city in three several parties, viz. one at Stanwix-bank, commanded by the Duke of Perth; another at Shading-gate-lane, commanded by the Marquis of Tullibardine, who had the artillery; and the third in Blackwell-fields, where the Pretender commanded the rest of their body facing the English gate. Upon discovering these three parties approaching so near the city, the garrison fired upon them, viz. the four-gun battery upon the Marquis of Tullibardine, who was heard to say, "Gentlemen, we have not metal for them, retreat;" which they immediately did, and disappeared. The turret guns and the citadel guns were fired upon the Pretender's division, where the white flag was displayed, which was seen to fall; and about the same time the ten-gun battery was fired upon the Duke of Perth's division, who also retired. As the thick fog then came on again, the inhabitants of the city expected that a general assault would be made by the rebels, and the walls were lined with men to repel it, and Sir John Pennington, Dr. Waugh, Chancellor Humphry Senhouse, Joseph Daire Dalston, of Acron-bank, Esqrs. with several other gentlemen of note, were all night under arms, to encourage and assist them. The militia was also drawn up at the foot of Castle-street, to be ready in case of a forcible attack, to relieve and reinforce the men upon the walls. On Monday morning, the fog still continuing thick, the garrison could not observe the situation of the rebels, but heard their pipers playing not far from the English gate. About ten o'clock a man was let down from the city walls, to reconnoitre the enemy; and found that they were retiring towards Warwick-bridge. In the afternoon others

were likewise detached to observe their motions, and discovered a great number remaining about Warwick-bridge: but the Pretender, with his guard and attendants, were advanced to Brampton, where they lodged themselves that night; and on Tuesday they remained inactive, except in feats' of rapine and plunder; for they spent the day in hunting and destroying the sheep of Lord Carlisle's tenants, and carrying off the country peoples geese, and other poultry. They also seized on all the horses they could lay hands on, without any question relating to value or property; notwithstanding they declared the design of their expedition was to redress grievances, and correct abuses. Tuesday night the rebels slept quietly. On Wednesday morning about ten o'clock they displayed the white flag at Warwick-bridge-end, to which they were about three hours in repairing. About one o'clock the young Pretender, attended by Lord George Murray, the Duke of Perth, and several others, besides those called his guard, came to them; upon which they formed themselves, and began to march again to Carlisle, in the following order: first, two (named hussars) in Highland dresses, and high rough red caps, like pioneers: next, about half a dozen of the chief leaders, followed by a kettle drum; then the Pretender's son, at the head of about 110 horse, called his guards, two and two a-breast; after these a confused multitude of all sorts of mean people to the number, as was supposed, of about six thousand. In this order they advanced to the height of Warwick-moor; where they halted about half an hour, and took an attentive view of the city; from thence the foot took the lead, and so marched to Carlisle about three in the afternoon, when they began a fresh assault, and the city renewed their fire. On Thursday it was discovered, that the rebels had thrown up a trench, which intimidated the town, and in a consultation it was resolved to capitulate, a deputation was sent to the Pretender, at Brampton, and

the town and castle were delivered up on Friday morning.

During this progress and success of the rebels, the English government were not waiting the event of a battle, without making every effort to entirely quell the rebellion. The city of London, addressed the king in terms of great loyalty, and offered contributions for that purpose. The example of the metropolis was followed by almost every corporate body in the kingdom. The flower of the English army, as we have already observed, was in Germany; had they, instead of the new levies then engaged, fought at Preston Pans, the issue of that battle would most likely have terminated the rebellion.

The king now thought fit to send for his son the Duke of Cumberland, to command against the rebels; and with him eight battalions and nine squadrons, returned from fighting foreign foes, to quell a civil war at home. On his arrival he immediately took the command, and soon followed his veteran troops towards the north. He arrived in Staffordshire, at the time when the rebels had penetrated as far as the town of Derby.

Both houses of parliament now assembled, and a bill was passed for suspending the habeas corpus act for six months: by which the king was, for that period, empowered to seize all suspected persons, and commit them to prison, without specifying the reason of such commitment.

The effects of this act were the apprehension and commitment of many suspected persons in both kingdoms: but it did not appear to stop the progress of the rebellion.

The duke now expected a junction of the forces under General Wade, who had marched from Newcastle to Darlington, and taking a westward course, had stationed his troops near Wetherby. The rebels having advice of this motion, it was proposed by some of them to march into North Wales; but others opposed this, on the presumption that they

should then be surrounded by the royal army, and compelled to surrender themselves prisoners at discretion, as they should have no opportunity of retreating to Scotland.

They therefore determined to push their cause to the very utmost; and for this purpose advanced by more rapid marches to the southward, than the king's troops could have endured: until they actually penetrated into the very heart and centre of England.

Liverpool was not behind London in spirit and loyalty. The inhabitants contributed largely in assisting the royal army, at this inclement season, with warm clothing, and raised several companies of armed men, which were called the Royal Liverpool Blues. Some of the advanced parties of rebels having appeared in sight of the town, every preparation was made to resist them. Finding at length that the Pretender bent his march by another route for Manchester, the Liverpool Blues marched in order to destroy the bridges, and thereby impede their progress. This service they effected, breaking them down at Warrington, over the river Mersey, as far as Stockport. They seized two of the rebels, whom they handcuffed and sent to Chester gaol.

Notwithstanding these impediments, the rebels crossed the Mersey at different fords, through which the Pretender waded breast-high in water. Their numbers could not be accurately ascertained, their march being straggling and unequal, but about 9000 appeared the aggregate. Their train of artillery consisted of sixteen field-pieces of three and four-pound shot, two carriages of gun-powder, a number of covered waggons, and about 160 horses laden with ammunition. Their van-guard consisted of about 200 cavalry, badly mounted, the horses appearing poor and jaded.

On entering the town of Macclesfield, they ordered the usual bellman to go round and give notice, that billets must forthwith be ready for 5000 men, their

first division, on pain of military execution. The Pretender himself constantly marched on foot, at the head of two regiments, one of which was appropriated as his body-guard. His dress was a light plaid, belted about with a sash of blue silk; he wore a grey wig, with a blue bonnet and a white rose in it. He appeared very dejected at this time. His followers were ordinary, except the two regiments mentioned, which appeared to have been picked out of the whole to form them. The arms of the others were very indifferent. Some had guns, others only pistols, the remainder, broad-swords and targets. They committed various depredations in their progress, seizing all the horses, and plundering the houses and the farm-yards.

In this manner they progressed to Derby. At Manchester, where they raised a regiment, it was apprehended, and not without reason, that they might have reached the metropolis, the duke not being fully prepared; or, by their retrograde motions might have missed them, as happened in the outset with Sir John Cope in the mountains of Argyleshire.

On the 28th of November, an advanced party of rebels entered Manchester, immediately beat up for volunteers, and enlisted several Papists and non-jurors; to whom they *promised* five guineas each, but gave them little more than white cockades, and what they called enlisting money. They then ordered quarters to be prepared for 10,000 men. Upon the arrival of the main body, a detachment examined the best houses, fixed upon one for the Pretender, and others for the principal officers. They ordered the bellman to go round the town, and give notice to all persons belonging to the excise, inn-keepers, &c. forthwith to appear, and bring their acquittances and rolls, and all the ready cash they had in their hands, belonging to government, on pain of military execution. The Pretender was then proclaimed King of England, and the terrified inhabitants were ordered to illuminate their houses.

In order to deceive the Duke of Cumberland, whose army was augmenting in Staffordshire; they sometimes gave out, that their rout was for Chester; then to Knutsford, Middlewich, and Nantwich; at other times they pretended they were going into Wales. The duke, however, took those measures which could not fail of checking their progress, should they push for London, which it was now greatly apprehended they would: and in short, the whole nation was in the utmost consternation. He concentrated the troops near Northampton, a position which the rebels could not pass by the direct road, without risking a battle. It was still apprehended that by forced marches, and by advancing with great rapidity, they meant to avoid the duke by a circuitous rout through Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Fortunately, they trifled away much time in raising the regiments, a proposition of a Mr. Townley, who was appointed the colonel, and afterwards taken prisoner at Carlisle; for which, among many others, he was hanged, as we shall hereafter describe.

These daring traitors had despoiled the country as far as Derby, before they were convinced of the danger they incurred to themselves. Here they found that the duke was waiting for them, advantageously posted, and with a force which they were unwilling to engage. They had actually left Derby, and taken the road to London, when they were seized with a panic which overcame them; for they had scarcely marched a mile when they halted; held a consultation, wheeled round, and re-traced their steps to Derby. On their second visit to this already oppressed town, they levied contributions to a large amount, and threatened destruction to it unless instantly complied with. They took what was hastily brought to them, meanly plundered whatever fell in their way; and departed sullen and dejected.

From this moment they sought to regain Scotland, and by forced marches the duke pursued them.

However, their conduct in advancing was oppressive, but in their retreat they committed murder and wanton mischief; and seized whatever they could carry off.

The rebels in arms in Scotland had, before this, been joined by some French troops, the commander of which declared, that he invaded the British dominions in the name of, and for his master Louis XV.

It is high time, in our summary of this very remarkable epoch of the British history, which might fill an interesting volume, to take a view of the proceedings of the gallant Duke of Cumberland. On the 6th of December he was at Coventry with the horse, and the infantry were encamped upon Meridon Common, where they received the warm clothing subscribed for in London, Liverpool, and other towns. On the 9th he pushed on at the head of the cavalry, and a thousand fresh volunteers, mounted in pursuit of the rebels, with a view to skirmish with them until the foot came up, but they fled at their utmost speed, through Ashbourn, L Eck, Macclesfield, Manchester, Leigh, Wigan, and Preston.

In order to enable the duke to continue his pursuit, the gentlemen of Staffordshire provided horses in order to carry the foot soldiers. The flourishing town of Birmingham followed this laudable example, and Sir Liston Holt, of Aston-hall, near thereto, furnished 250, sending even his coach-horses on this service: for which he received the public and private thanks of the English commander in chief.

Field-Marshal Wade, with his detachment of the British army, was at this time at Wakefield. It had been resolved, in a council of war held on the 8th at Ferrybridge, to march with all expedition into Lancashire, to cut off the retreat of the rebels back to Scotland; but finding they had proceeded too far in their flight to effect this, he dispatched General Oglethorpe, with the cavalry, to hang upon, and harass their rear.

The French force which landed in favour of the

rebels, brought with them such a heavy train of artillery, that it required about a dozen horses to draw an eightecn-pounder. With this train they advanced from Montrose to Perth, by Brechin. They had every difficulty to encounter; the season rendered the roads extremely bad, and the country people annoyed them in all directions.

At Preston, the rebels, wearied with incessant marches for the last three or four days, were compelled to halt a day. This being made known to the Duke of Cumberland, he redoubled his efforts to overtake them with his cavalry. He had been recently joined by General Oglethorpe, whose squadrons had moved from Doncaster without a halt; and in three days he gained 100 miles over snow and ice. By pushing the horses to the utmost, the duke actually entered Preston only four hours after the rear of the rebels had left it; but was now compelled to halt and refresh.

On the 14th General Oglethorpe was at Garstang, and took his post on Ellilmoor, about three miles from Lancaster. The Liverpool companies arrived at Preston on the 16th, and that town sent a deputation of four of the principal inhabitants to his Royal Highness, with offers to supply his troops with whatever they might stand in need of.

At Lancaster the rebels were thrown into the utmost dread on the approach of General Oglethorpe, with the horse, who actually entered the town at one end, as they retreated out of the other. While the horses were feeding in the street, and the soldiers refreshing and preparing for the attack on overtaking the fugitives, the general was called back by an express announcing the invasion of the French. This intelligence proving to have had no foundation, the horse were again ordered to push on, but the rebels had got by that time so much the start, that the general could not overtake them.

At Kendal the country rose upon the retreating rebels; they took three of their men, two women,

and several horses; in doing which three of the people were killed. The Pretender halted at Shap that night, and fearing to be treated in like manner at Penryth, he endeavoured to avoid that town, in which attempt he was met by an incredible number of incensed inhabitants on Lazenby-moor, on which they turned off to Temple Sowerby, but were hunted and galled the whole day, and at length driven into Orton. Here they could wait only to feed their horses in the street, and then set forward, having pressed a guide, but were pursued by the loyal people of Appleby and Brough, who took the Duke of Perth's mistress and another gentlewoman, whose carriage had broke down. As a retaliation for this interruption, the rebels committed great spoiliations as they passed, plundering houses and shops, destroying goods, and stripping men of their shoes, stockings, breeches—nay, often stripping them altogether.

After several forced marches, the Duke of Cumberland at length came up with the rebels, at Louthers-hall, which they had taken possession of, but abandoned it on his approach, and threw themselves into the village of Clifton, three miles from Penryth. The dragoons immediately dismounted, and made so vigorous an attack, that in about an hour's time the rebels were beaten, though in a strong and defensible post. It became dark before the assault was over, and thus it was rendered impossible to calculate their loss, or to pursue them. Of the king's forces, forty were killed and wounded; and among the latter were Colonel Honeywood, Captain East, and the cornets Owen and Hamilton. These officers declared, that when they had fallen, the rebels struck at them with their broad-swords, crying, "No quarter, kill them." They then carried off their wounded, and fled to Carlisle, which city they held possession of since its disgraceful capitulation; and which the English made immediate preparation to invest.

A fresh detachment from Marshal Wade, having joined the duke, with a train of battering cannon, from Whitehaven, he marched for Carlisle, and gave orders for raising the *posse comitatis*, (the whole body of the people.) Upon his near approach, he found the main body of the rebels had abandoned the city for Scotland, and had only left a garrison in it. He however invested it in all quarters, and the besieged fired their cannon with great fury, but little execution.

During these operations, the Seahorse frigate captured a large French ship, a part of a small fleet, full of troops and warlike stores, destined for Scotland, and brought her into Dover. On board were 22 officers, all of whom were Scotch and Irish, provided with commissions from the King of France, and a proportional number of soldiers.

The Duke of Cumberland threw up batteries to bombard the city, and the rebels burnt part of the suburbs, and hanged three of the inhabitants. The batteries, which took up several days in constructing, being at length completed were opened upon the city, but ceased towards evening, as the ammunition was expended, but a supply, fortunately arriving the next day, the cannonade was resumed, which caused the rebels to hoist the white flag, upon which it again ceased. In about two hours, a flag of truce advanced with a rebel officer, who brought a letter, signed "John Hamilton," Governor of Carlisle. This letter proposed hostages to be given and exchanged, in order to prepare a capitulation. To this the Duke of Cumberland returned for answer, "That he would make no exchange of hostages with rebels." Another flag arrived from the rebel governor, desiring to know what terms the duke would grant him and his garrison. To this it was answered, that the utmost terms he would grant, were, "not to put them to the sword, but to reserve them for his Majesty's pleasure;" whereupon he surrendered the city, praying the duke to intercede for his

Majesty's royal clemency, and that the officers' clothes and baggage might be safe; and at three in the afternoon of the 30th of December, the king's troops once more took possession of the city of Carlisle.

The rebel garrison consisted of the remains of the regiment they raised at Manchester, viz. Townley, their colonel, five captains, six lieutenants, seven ensigns, and an adjutant, who had been a barber, with 93 non-commissioned officers, drummers, and private men, chiefly Roman catholics. The other part of the garrison were chiefly Scotchmen, and consisted of the governor, six captains, seven lieutenants, three ensigns, and one surgeon; and 256 non-commissioned officers and private men; and last, though not least rebellious, was found James Capperock, the Pretender's bishop of the diocese. Those who called themselves the French part of this contemptible garrison, were Sir Francis Geogean, of Thoulouse, in France, captain in Count Lally's regiment, Colonel Strickland, and Sir John Arbuthnot, captains in the rebel Lord George Drummond's regiment; but the real Frenchmen were, one sergeant, and four private soldiers.

These victories, however, by no means put an end to the rebellion. The main body of the rebels, we have observed, left Carlisle, and in haste moved forward to Scotland. Having no impediment to encounter, they arrived at Glasgow, the second city of that part of Great Britain. Here they levied a contribution for horses, promised payment for what they consumed, and then ordered the land-tax to be paid: but upon departure said, their expenses should be discharged out of the pretended forfeited rents of Kilsyth. They then marched for Stirling, in possession of the English, and commanded by the gallant General Blakeney. The gates could not be defended; they therefore marched in, and summoned the garrison to surrender; but the veteran commander answered, that "he would perish in it."

ruins, rather than make terms with rebels." In the river of the town were two English men of war, and the rebels, in order to prevent their going further up, erected a battery, which the ships soon destroyed, and caused them to retreat a mile, where they erected another, which did little execution. They now prepared for a vigorous attack on the castle, got some heavy pieces of ordnance across the Forth, erected a battery against it, and called in all their forces. General Blakeney fired upon them, and repeatedly drove them from their works.

General Hawley, at the head of such troops as he could form in order of battle, marched to attempt to raise the siege, but the rebels made a desperate attack, at the commencement of which, his artillery horses were so terrified, that they broke their traces, and ran away. Some of the dragoons seeing this, also gave way, and the rebels had the advantage.

At the beginning of the battle, a violent storm of wind and rain arose, which blew and beat in the faces of the English. General Hawley retreated to Linlithgow. His powder was found spoiled by the excessive rains of that and the preceding day, not a musket in five went off, and the drivers of his waggons, running off with the impressed horses, he was compelled to burn his tents and other stores, and to abandon nearly the whole of his artillery.

Edinburgh being again in the possession of the English, and fears entertained that the rebels meant to abandon the siege of Stirling, and proceed thither, General Hawley was ordered to post himself between those places. The rebels abandoning Stirling, laid siege to Fort William, but after a long attack, in which they fired hot bars, in hopes of setting fire to it, they also gave up that design.

Various were the skirmishes in different parts of Scotland, and frequently to the advantage of the rebels, which we shall pass over, and close our history by a description of the battle of Culloden, which put an end to this formidable rebellion. This

was a pitched battle, and the contending armies having taken the field, determined to abide the issue of the day. They were respectively commanded by the Duke of Cumberland, and the Pretender; and the following account of the battle appeared in the London Gazette:

“ On Tuesday the 15th, the rebels burnt Fort Augustus, which convinced us of their resolution to stand an engagement with the king's troops. We gave our men a day's halt at Nairn, and on the 16th marched from thence, between four and five, in four columns. The three lines of foot (reckoning the reserve for one,) were broken into three from the right, which made the three columns equal, and each of five battalions. The artillery and baggage followed the first column upon the right, and the cavalry made the fourth column on the left.

“ After we had marched about eight miles, our advanced guard, composed of about 40 of Kingston's, and the highlanders, led by the quartermaster-general, perceived the rebels at some distance making a motion towards us on the left, upon which we immediately formed; but, finding the rebels were still a good way from us, and that the whole body did not come forward, we put ourselves again upon our march in our former posture, and continued it to within a mile of them, where we again formed in the same order as before. After reconnoitering their situation, we found them posted behind some old walls and huts, in a line with Culloiden House. As we thought our right entirely secure, General Hawley and General Bland went to the left with the two regiments of dragoons, to endeavour to fall upon the right flank of the rebels, and Kingston's horse was ordered to the reserve. The ten pieces of cannon were disposed, two in each of the intervals of the first line, and all our Highlanders (except about 140, which were upon the left with General Hawley, and who behaved extremely well) were left to guard the baggage.

“ When we were advanced within 500 yards of the rebels, we found the morass upon our right was ended, which left our right flank quite uncovered to them; his Royal Highness thereupon immediately ordered Kingston’s horse from the reserve, and a little squadron of about 60 of Cobham’s which had been patrolling, to cover our flank: and Pulteney’s regiment was ordered from the reserve to the right of the Royals.

“ We spent above half an hour after that, trying which should gain the flank of the other; and his Royal Highness having sent Lord Bury forward within 100 yards of the rebels, to reconnoitre something that appeared like a battery to us, they thereupon began firing their cannon, which was extremely ill-served and ill-pointed; ours immediately answered them, which began their confusion. They then came running on in their wild manner; and upon the right, where his Royal Highness had placed himself, imagining the greatest push would be there, they came down three several times, within a hundred yards of our men, firing their pistols, and brandishing their swords; but the Royals and Pulteney’s hardly took their firelocks from their shoulders, so that after those faint attempts they made off, and the little squadrons on our right were sent to pursue them. General Hawley had, by the help of our Highlanders, beat down two little stone walls, and came in upon the right flank of their second line.

“ As their whole first line came down to attack at once, their right somewhat out-flanked Barrel’s regiment, which was our left, and the greatest part of the little loss we sustained, was there; but Bligh’s and Sempil’s giving a fire upon those who had out-flanked Barrel’s soon repulsed them, and Barrel’s regiment and the left of Monro’s fairly beat them with their bayonets. There was scarcely a soldier or officer of Barrel’s, and of that part of Monro’s which engaged, who did not kill one or two men each with their bayonets and spontoons.

“ The cavalry, which had charged from the right and left, met in the centre, except two squadrons of dragoons, which we missed, and they were gone in pursuit of the runaways: Lord Ancrum was ordered to pursue with the horse as far as he could; and did it with so good effect that a very considerable number was killed in the pursuit.

“ As we were in our march to Inverness, and were nearly arrived there, Major-General Bland sent the annexed papers, which he received from the French officers and soldiers, surrendering themselves prisoners to his Royal Highness. Major-General Bland had also made great slaughter, and took about 50 French officers and soldiers prisoners, in his pursuit.

“ By the best calculation that can be made, it is thought the rebels lost 2000 men upon the field of battle, and in the pursuit. We have here 222 French, and 326 rebel prisoners. Lieutenant-Col. Howard killed an officer, who appeared to be Lord Strathallan, by the seal, and different commissions from the Pretender, found in his pocket.

“ It is said Lord Perth, Lord Nairn, Lochiel, Keppock, and Appin Stuart are also killed. All their artillery and ammunition were taken, as well as the Pretender's and all their baggage. There were also twelve colours taken.

“ All the generals, officers and soldiers, did their utmost duty in his Majesty's service, and shewed the greatest zeal and bravery on this occasion.

“ The Pretender's son, it is said, lay at Lord Lovat's house at Aird, the night after the action. Brigadier Mordant is detached with 900 volunteers this morning into the Fraziers country, to attack all the rebels he may find there. Lord Sutherland's and Lord Reay's people continue to exert themselves, and have taken upwards of 100 rebels, who are sent for; and there is great reason to believe Lord Cromarty and his son, are also taken. The Monros have killed 50 of the rebels in their flight. As it is

not known where the greatest bodies of them are, or which way they have taken in their flight, his Royal Highness has not yet determined which way to march. On the 17th, as his Royal Highness was at dinner, three officers, and about sixteen of Fitz-James's regiment, who were mounted, came and surrendered themselves prisoners.

“ The killed, wounded, and missing, of the king's troops, amount to above 300.

“ The French officers will be all sent to Carlisle, till his Majesty's pleasure shall be known.

“ The rebels, by their own accounts, make their loss greater by 2000 men than we have stated it. Four of their principal ladies are in custody, viz. Lady Ogilvie, Lady Kinloch, Lady Gordon, and the Laird of M'Intosh's wife. Major Grant, the Governor of Inverness, is re-taken, and the Generals Hawley, Lord Albemarle, Huske, and Bland, have orders to inquire into the reasons for his surrendering of Fort George.

“ Lord Cromartie, Lord M'Cleod his son, with other prisoners, are just brought in from Sutherland, by the Hound sloop, which his Royal Highness had sent for them, and they are just now landing.”

# THE EARL OF KILMARNOCK; THE EARL OF CROMARTIE; THE LORD BALMERINO;

## THREE OF THE PRINCIPAL REBEL CHIEFS.

“ These men were once the glory of their age,  
 “ Disinterested, just, with ev’ry virtue  
 “ Of civil life adorn’d—in arms excelling.  
 “ Their only blot was this; that much provok’d  
 “ They rais’d their vengeful arms against their country;  
 “ And lo! the righteous gods have now chastis’d them.”

THOMSON.

THESE noblemen acted a conspicuous part in the rebellion of which we have just given an account, and on Monday, the 28th of July, 1746, about eight o’clock in the morning, they were taken from the Tower in three coaches, the Earl of Kilmarnock, with Governor Williamson, and another gentleman captain of the guard, in the first; the Earl of Cromartie, attended by Captain Marshall, in the second; and Lord Balmerino, attended by Mr. Fowler, gentleman gaoler, who had the axe covered by him, in the third, under a strong guard of foot soldiers to Westminster-Hall, where the Lord High Steward and the peers having taken their seats, proclamation was made for the lieutenant of the Tower of London to return the precept to him directed, with the bodies of the prisoners: which done, the gentleman gaoler of the Tower brought his prisoners to the bar; and the proclamation was made for the king’s evidence to come forth, the king’s counsel, by his grace’s direction, opened the indictment, then his grace moved the House, that he might advance forwards for the better hearing of the evidenee, (which being done, William Earl of Kilmarnock, was brought to the bar,) and his bill of indietment for high treason read, to which his lordship pleaded guilty, and desired to be recommended to his Majesty for merey. George, Earl of

Cromartie was next brought to the bar, and also pleaded guilty, and prayed for mercy. After which Arthur Lord Balmerino was brought to the bar, and pleaded not guilty, alleging that he was not at Carlisle at the time specified in the indictment, whereupon six witnesses for the crown were called in and examined, whose evidence was distinctly repeated by the reading clerk, proving that his lordship entered Carlisle (though not the same day,) sword in hand, at the head of a regiment called by his name, Elphinston's horse. To this he made an exception, which was over-ruled. The Lord High Steward then asked him if he had any witness or any thing further to offer in his defence. To which he replied, he was sorry he had given their lordships so much trouble, and had nothing more to say. Hereupon their lordships retired out of Westminster-Hall to the House of Peers, where the opinion of the judges was asked, touching this overt act, which they declared to be not material, as other facts were proved beyond contradiction, their lordships returned, and his grace putting the question to the youngest baron, "Whether Arthur Lord Balmerino was guilty or not guilty, &c." he clapt his right hand to his left breast, and said, "Guilty, upon my honour, my Lord," as did all the rest of the peers. And the prisoners being again called to the bar, the Lord High Steward declared their resolutions: and they were ordered to be brought up on the 30th, at 11 o'clock in the morning to receive sentence.

Written notice was given them to bring what they might have to offer in arrest of judgment.—There were 136 peers present.

On the 30th the Lord High Steward went to Westminster-Hall attended as before: and the prisoners being again brought before their peers, the Earl of Kilmarnock made a very elegant and pathetic speech, which was much admired, to move their lordships to intercede for him with his Majesty; the Earl of Cromartie spoke also to the same

effect: but Lord Balmerino pleaded in arrest of judgment, that his indictment was found in the county of Surrey, and, this being a point of law, desired that he might be allowed counsel to argue it, upon which the lords adjourned to their chamber, to consider of it, and soon after returned; ordered his plea to be argued on Friday next, and appointed Messrs. Wilbrake and Farrester for his counsel.

On the 1st of August the Lord High Steward, and the peers being assembled in Westminster-Hall, the three rebel lords were brought to the bar, with the axe carried before them. The Earl of Kilmarnock and the Earl of Cromartie were then separately asked if they had any thing to propose why judgment should not be passed upon them; to which they answered in the negative. His grace then informed Lord Balmerino, that, having started an objection, having desired counsel, and having obtained their assistance, he was now to make use of it, if he thought fit to argue that point. His lordship answered, he was sorry for the trouble he had given his grace and the peers; that he would not have taken that step, if he had not been persuaded there was some ground for the objection; but that his counsel having satisfied him there was nothing in it that could tend to his service, he declined having them heard, submitted to the court, and was resolved to rely upon his Majesty's mercy.

His grace then made a speech to the prisoners, almost to the same effect as that pronounced by Earl Cowper. But as the present rebellion was opposed with more unanimity and zeal than the last, his grace took occasion to observe to their lordships, that the beginnings of the rebellion "were so weak and unpromising, as to be capable of seducing none but the most infected and willing minds to join in so desperate an enterprize. That it was impossible even for the party of the rebels to be so inconsiderate or vain, as to imagine, that the body of this free people, blest in the enjoyment of all their rights,

both civil and religious, under his Majesty's protection; secure in the prospect of transmitting them safe to their posterity, under the protestant succession in his royal house, would not rise up as one man, to oppose and crush so flagitious, so destructive, and so unprovoked an attempt.—Accordingly the rebels soon saw his Majesty's faithful subjects, conscious both of their duty and interest, contending to outdo one another in demonstrations of their zeal and vigour in his service.—Men of property, of all ranks and orders, crowded in with liberal subscriptions, of their own motion, beyond the examples of former times, and uncompelled by any law: and yet in the most legal and warrantable manner, notwithstanding what has been ignorantly and presumptuously suggested to the contrary.”——His lordship concluded thus: “It has been his Majesty's justice to bring your lordships to legal trial: and it has been his wisdom to shew, that, as a small part of his national forces was sufficient to subdue the rebel army in the field, so the ordinary course of his laws is strong enough to bring even their chiefs to justice.”

After a short pause, his Grace pronounced sentence as in cases of high treason, and then put an end to the commission by breaking his staff.

At six o'clock a troop of life-guards, one of horse-grenadiers, and 1000 of the foot-guards, (being 15 men out of each company,) marched from the parade in St. James's-park through the city to Tower-hill, to attend the execution of the Earl of Kilmarnock and the Lord Balmerino, and being arrived there, were posted in lines from the Tower to the scaffold, and all around it. About eight o'clock the sheriffs of London, with their under-sheriffs, and their officers, viz. six serjeants at mace, six yeomen, and the executioner, met at the Mitre tavern in Fenchurch-street, where they breakfasted, and went from thence to the house, lately the transport-office on Tower-hill, near Catherine-court, hired by them

for the reception of the said lords, before they should be conducted to the scaffold, which was erected about thirty yards from the said house. At ten o'clock the block was fixed on the stage, and covered with black cloth, and several sacks of sawdust were brought up to strew on it; soon after their coffins were brought, covered with black cloth, ornamented with gilt nails, &c. On the Earl of Kilmarnock's was a plate with this inscription, "*Gulielmus Comes de Kilmarnock decollatus, 18 Augusti, 1746, Ætat. suæ 42*, with an earl's coronet over it, and six coronets over the six handles; and on Lord Balmerino's was a plate with this inscription, "*Arthurus Dominus de Balmerino decollatus, 18 Augusti, 1746, Ætat. suæ. 58*," with a baronet's coronet over it, and six others over the six handles. At a quarter after ten the sheriffs went in procession to the outward gate of the Tower, and after knocking at it some time, a warder within asked, "Who's there?" The officer without answered, "The sheriffs of London and Middlesex." The warder then asked, "What do they want?" The officer answered, "The bodies of William, Earl of Kilmarnock, and Arthnr, Lord Balmerino?" upon which the warder said, "I will go and inform the Lieutenant of the Tower," and in about ten minutes the Lieutenant of the Tower, with the Earl of Kilmarnock, and Major White, with Lord Balmerino, guarded by several of the warders, came to the gate; the prisoners were there delivered to the Sheriffs, who gave proper receipts for their bodies to the Lieutenant, who, as is usual, said, "God bless King George;" to which the Earl of Kilmarnock assented by a bow, and the Lord Balmerino said, "God bless King James." Soon after, the procession, moving in a slow and solemn manner, appeared in the following order: 1. The Constable of the Tower-hamlets. 2. The Knight-Marshall's-men, and Tip-staves. 3. The Sheriff's Officers. 4. The Sheriffs, the Prisoners, and their Chaplains: Mr. Sheriff Blachford walking with the

Earl of Kilmarnock, and Mr. Sheriff Cockayne with the Lord Balmerino. 5. The Tower Warders. 6. A guard of musqueteers. 7. The two hearses and a mourning coach. When the procession had passed through the line into the circle formed by the guards, the passage was closed, and the troops of horse, who were in the rear of the foot on the lines, wheeled off, and drew up five deep behind the foot, on the south side of the hill, facing the scaffold.

The lords were conducted into separate apartments in the house, facing the steps of the scaffold; their friends being admitted to see them. The Earl of Kilmarnock was attended by the Rev. Mr. Foster, a dissenting minister, and the Rev. Mr. Hume, a near relation of the Earl of Hume; and the Chaplain of the tower, and another clergyman of the church of England, accompanied the Lord Balmerino; who, on entering the door of the house, heard several of the spectators ask eagerly, "Which is Lord Balmerino?" to whom he answered, smiling, "I am Lord Balmerino, gentlemen, at your service." The parlour and passage of the house, the rails inclosing the way from thence to the scaffold, and the rails about it, were all hung with black.

The Lord Kilmarnock, in the apartment allotted to him, spent about an hour in his devotions with Mr. Foster, who assisted him with prayer and exhortation.

After which, Lord Balmerino, pursuant to his request, being admitted to confer with the earl, first thanked him for the favour, and then asked, "If his lordship knew of any order signed by the Prince, (meaning the Pretender's son,) to give no quarter at the battle of Culloden." And the earl answering, "No," the Lord Balmerino added, "Nor I neither, and therefore it seems to be an invention to justify their own murders." The earl replied, "he did not think this a fair inference, because he was informed, after he was prisoner at Inverness, by several officers, that such an order, signed George Murray, was in the duke's custody."—"George Mur-

ray!" said Lord Balmerino, "then they should not charge it on the Prince." Then he took his leave, embracing Lord Kilmarnock, with the same kind of noble and generous compliments as he had used before, "My dear Lord Kilmarnock, I am only sorry that I cannot pay this reckoning alone; once more, farewell for ever!" and returned to his own room.

The earl then kneeling down with the company, joined in a prayer delivered by Mr. Foster: after which, having sat a few moments, and taken a second refreshment of a bit of bread and a glass of wine, he expressed a desire that Lord Balmerino might go first to the scaffold; but being informed that this could not be, as his lordship was named first in the warrant; he appeared satisfied, saluted his friends, saying he should make no speech on the scaffold, but desired the ministers to assist him in his last moments, and they accordingly, with other friends, proceeded with him to the scaffold. He appeared on the scaffold, dressed in black, with a countenance and demeanour, testifying great contrition, and the multitude who had been long expecting to see him on this awful occasion, shewed the deepest signs of commiseration and pity; his lordship being struck with such a variety of dreadful objects at once, the multitudes—the block—his coffin—the executioner—the instrument of death—turned about to Mr. Hume, and said, "Hume! this is terrible;" but without changing his voice or countenance.

After putting up a short prayer, concluding with a petition for his Majesty King George, and the royal family, in verification of his declaration in his speech, his lordship embraced, and took his last leave of his friend. The executioner, who had before taken something to keep him from fainting, was so affected with his lordship's distress, and the awfulness of the scene, that, on asking him forgiveness, he burst into tears. His lordship bid him take courage, giving him at the same time, a purse with five guineas, and telling him that he would

drop his handkerchief as a signal for the stroke. He proceeded, with the help of his gentleman, to make ready for the block, by taking off his coat, and the bag from his hair, which was then tucked up under a napkin-cap, but this being made up so wide, as not to keep up his long hair, the making it less occasioned a little delay; his neck being laid bare, he tucked down the collar of his shirt and waistcoat, he then kneeled down on a black cushion at the block, and drew his cap over his eyes, in doing which, as well as in putting up his hair, his hands were observed to shake; but, either to support himself, or for a more convenient posture of devotion, he happened to lay both his hands upon the block, which the executioner observing, prayed his lordship to let them fall, lest they should be mangled, or break the blow. He was then told, that the neck of his waistcoat was in the way, upon which he rose, and with the help of a friend took it off, and the neck being made bare to the shoulders, he kneeled down as before. Every thing was now ready for the execution, the black bays which hung over the rails of the scaffold, were by direction of the colonel of the guard, or the sheriffs, turned up, that the people might see the whole of it, and in about two minutes (the time he before fixed) after he kneeled down, his lordship dropped his handkerchief, and the executioner at once severed his head from his body, except only a small part of the skin, which was immediately divided by a gentle stroke; the head was received in a piece of red baise, and, with the body, immediately put into the coffin. The scaffold was then cleared from the blood, fresh sawdust strewed, and, that no appearance of a former execution might remain, the executioner changed such of his clothes as appeared bloody.

In the account said to be published by the authority of the sheriffs, it is asserted, that the Lord Kilmarnock requested his head might not be held up as usual, and declared to be the head of a traitor; and

that, for this reason, that part of the ceremony was omitted, as the sentence and law did not require it; but we are assured, in Mr. Foster's account, that his lordship made no such request; and further, that when he was informed that his head would be held up, and such proclamation made, it did not affect him, and he spoke of it as a matter of no moment. All that he wished or desired was, first, that the executioner might not be, as represented to his lordship, "a good sort of man," thinking a rough temper would be fitter for the purpose. Second, that his coffin, instead of remaining in the hearse, might be set upon the stage: and, third, that four persons might be appointed to receive the head, that it might not roll about the stage, but be speedily, with his body, put into the coffin.

While this was doing, Lord Balmerino, after having solemnly recommended himself to the mercy of the Almighty, conversed cheerfully with his friends, refreshed himself twice with a bit of bread and a glass of wine, and desired the company to drink to him *ain deg'rae ta haiven*, acquainting them that he had prepared a speech, which he should read on the scaffold, and therefore should there say nothing of its contents.

The under-sheriff coming into his lordship's apartment to let him know the stage was ready, he prevented him, by immediately asking, if the affair was over with the Lord Kilnamock; and being answered, "It is," he enquired how the executioner performed his office; and upon receiving the account, said, it was well done; then addressing himself to the company, he said, "Gentlemen, I shall detain you no longer," and with an easy unaffected cheerfulness he saluted his friends, and hastened to the scaffold, which he mounted with so easy an air, as astonished the spectators. His lordship was dressed in his regimentals, a blue coat, turned up with red, trimmed, with brass buttons, (and a tye wig,) the same which he wore at the battle of Culloden. No circumstance in his whole deportment shewed the least sign of fear or regret, and he frequently reproved his friends for discovering either upon his account. He walked several times round

the scaffold, bowed to the people, went to his coffin, read the inscription, and, with a nod, said, "It is right." He then examined the block, which he called his pillow of rest. His lordship, putting on his spectacles, and taking a paper out of his pocket, read it with an audible voice, which, so far from being filled with passionate invective, mentioned his majesty as a prince of the greatest magnanimity and mercy, at the same time that, through erroneous political principles, it denied him a right to the allegiance of his people: having delivered this paper to the sheriff, he called for the executioner, who appearing, and being about to ask his lordship's pardon, he said, "Friend, you need not ask me forgiveness, the execution of your duty is commendable;" upon which his lordship gave him three guineas, saying, "Friend, I never was rich, this is all the money I have now, I wish it was more, and I am sorry I can add nothing to it but my coat and waistcoat," which he then took off, together with his neckcloth, and threw them on his coffin; putting on a flannel waistcoat, which had been provided for the purpose, and then taking a plaid cap out of his pocket, he put it on his head, saying, he died a Scotchman; after kneeling down at the block to adjust his posture, and shew the executioner the signal for the stroke, which was dropping his arms, he once more turned to his friends and took his last farewell; and looking round on the crowd, said, "Perhaps some may think my behaviour too bold, but remember, Sir, (said he to a gentleman who stood near him,) that I now declare it is the effect of confidence in God, and a good conscience, and I should dissemble if I should shew any signs of fear."

Observing the axe in the executioner's hand as he passed him, he took it from him, felt the edge, and returning it, clapped the executioner on the shoulder to encourage him; he tucked down the collar of his shirt and waistcoat, and shewed him where to strike, desiring him to do it resolutely, "for in that," says his lordship, "will consist your kindness. He then went to the side of the stage, and called up the warder, to whom he gave some money, asked which was his hearer, and ordered

the man to drive near. Immediately, without trembling or changing countenance, he again knelt down at the block, and having, with his arms stretched out, said, "O Lord, reward my friends,—forgive my enemies,—and receive my soul!" he gave the signal, by letting them fall. But his uncommon firmness and intrepidity, and the unexpected suddenness of the signal, so surprised the executioner, that, though he struck the part directed, the blow was not given with strength enough to wound him very deep; on which it seemed as if he made an effort to turn his head towards the executioner, and the under-jaw fell, and returned very quick, like anger and gnashing the teeth; but it could not be otherwise, the part being convulsed. A second blow immediately succeeding the first, rendered him, however, quite insensible, and a third finished the work.

His head was received in a piece of red baize, and, with his body, put into the coffin, which, at his particular request, was placed on that of the late Marquis of Tullibardine's, in St. Peter's church, in the Tower, all three lords lying in one grave.

During the whole course of the solemnity, although the hill, the scaffoldings, and houses were crowded full of spectators, all persons attended with uncommon decency, and evenness of temper; which evinces how much the people entered into the rectitude of the execution, though, too humane to rejoice in the catastrophe.

Lord Balmerino had but a small estate, though ground-lord and lord of the manor of Colcon, a long street in the suburbs of Edinburgh, leading to Leith, and had also some other small possessions in the shire of Fife. His lady came to London soon after him, and frequently attended him during his confinement in the Tower, and had lodgings in East-Smithfield. She was at dinner with him when the warrant came for his execution the Monday following, and being very much surprised, he desired her not to be concerned at it: "If the king had given me mercy," said he, "I should have been glad of it; but since it is otherwise, I am very easy; for it is what I have expected, and therefore it does not at all surprise

me. His lady seemed very disconsolate, and rose immediately from table; on which he started from his chair, and said, "Pray, my lady, sit down, for it shall not spoil my dinner;" upon which her ladyship sat down again, but could not eat.

Several more of his sayings were related as remarkable, among others, that being advised to take care of his person, he replied, "It would be thought very imprudent in a man to repair an old house, when the lease of it was so near expiring."

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### CHARLES RATCLIFFE, Esq.

*Who assumed the Title of Earl of Derwentwater.*

THIS gentleman was one of those who took part in the rebellion, under a commission from the king of France, and was taken, with many others, on his passage to Scotland, by the Seahorse frigate. He was the youngest brother of the Earl of Derwentwater, who was attainted and executed in the first rebellion; and his titles and estates, consequently, forfeited to the crown. He was, with his brother, taken at Preston, tried, convicted, and condemned, but several times respited, and would probably have been pardoned, had he not, with thirteen others, made his escape out of a room, called the Castle, in Newgate, through a small door, which had been accidentally left open, leading to the debtors' side, where the turnkey, not knowing them, let them out of the prison, supposing they were persons who had come in to see their friends.

He immediately procured a passage to France, and from thence followed the Pretender to Rome, subsisting on such petty pension as his master would allow him. Returning some short time afterwards, he married the widow of Lord Newborough, by whom he had a son.

In 1733 he came to England, and resided in Pall-Mall, without any molestation, though it was well known

to the ministry.\* He returned to France, but came back in 1735, to solicit his pardon, but, without success, though he appeared publicly, and visited several families, particularly in Essex. Returning again to France, he unfortunately accepted of the French king's commission, to act as an officer in the rebellion, and was taken as we have already described.

On the 22d of October, 1746, he was brought to the bar of the Court of King's Bench, and was arraigned, but refused to hold up his hand, or acknowledge any jurisdiction but that of the king of France, insisting on a commission he had in his pocket from him, and appealing to the Sicilian ambassador, who was then in court, for the authenticity thereof. On hearing his former indictment and conviction read, he said, that he was not the Charles Ratcliffe therein named, but that he was the Earl of Derwentwater, and his counsel informed the court, that such was the plea they meant to abide by, and thereupon issue was gained.

The counsel for the prisoner then moved to put off his trial, upon his own affidavit (to which he had subscribed himself the Count de Derwentwater,) that two of his material witnesses, naming them, were abroad, without whose testimony he could not safely go to trial. To which affidavit the counsel for the crown objected, as not being entitled as in the cause before the court, nor the two witnesses sworn to be material, in the issue then joined between the king and the prisoner; and also, because the prisoner had not so much as undertaken to swear, for himself, that he was not the person, which, as it was a fact entirely in his own knowledge, ought to be required of him, if he would entitle himself to this favour

\* Some years after the quelling of the last Rebellion, the Pretender came in disguise to view London. This was a natural, but dangerous curiosity, to behold the place where his grandfather, king James II. had been on the throne. Ministers being apprised of this circumstance, in haste went to king George II. with the information, and recommended his immediate apprehension. The monarch, with one of his shrewd answers, for which he was remarkable, replied, "No—let the poor man satisfy his curiosity; when done, he will quietly go back to France." The king's observation was verified.

from the court; this being a proceeding very different from the trial upon a not guilty, in an original prosecution on a charge of high treason or other crime, the identity of the person being the single fact to be enquired of, and a case in which the crown had a right by law to proceed in instanter.

Upon this the prisoner amended his affidavit as to the witnesses, but refused to supply it, so far as to swear he was not the same person. And the court said this was a new precedent, there being no instance of any application to put off the trial of a question of this sort before; and that this was like an inquest of office, in order to inform the conscience of the court, and what the public had a right to proceed in instanter. And therefore that the prisoner ought to give all reasonable satisfaction to induce them to grant such a favour as the prisoner desired, for they could not in conscience and justice to the public indulge him, without a reasonable satisfaction that his plea was true.

But the prisoner still refusing to swear to the truth of his plea, the jury were called, and after two or three of the pannel had been sworn, Mr. Ratcliffe challenged the next that was called, as of right, without assigning any reason; but upon debate of the question, how far he had right to challenge? the court said, it had been determined before in all the later cases, and particularly in the case of one Jordan; that the prisoner, in such a case as this, had no peremptory challenge; upon which the rest of the jury were sworn, and after a clear evidence of the identity of the person on the part of the crown, the prisoner producing none on his part, the jury withdrew about ten minutes, and then found their verdict, that he was the same Charles Ratcliffe who was convicted of high-treason in the year 1715.

The Attorney-General then moved to have execution awarded against the prisoner on his former judgment; to which the prisoner's counsel objected, tendering a plea of pardon by act of parliament, in bar of execution. But the court said, as he had already pleaded such a plea as he chose to rely on, and as that was found against him,

nothing more remained for them to do at present but to award execution; and if his counsel had any thing to offer in his behalf, they would have time to do it before the day of execution; and ordered a rule to be made for the proper writs for his execution, on the 8th of next month, and remanded the prisoner to the Tower.

Mr. Ratcliffe was about five feet ten inches high, upwards of fifty, was dressed in scarlet, faced with black velvet, and gold buttons, a gold-laced waistcoat, bagwig, and had a hat with a white feather.

His design in stiling himself Earl of Derwentwater, was, that he might pass for Francis, his younger brother, who went to France before 1715, but was thought to be dead. He would not call the Lord Chief Justice lord, because the title of earl was not given him. He refused to hold up his hand at the bar; and being told, that, as a gentleman, he ought to comply, and that his own counsel would satisfy him that it was only a form of the court, he said, "I know many things that I will not advise with my counsel upon." On hearing the rule for his execution, he desired time, because he and Lord Moreton (in the bastille at Paris,) should take the same journey at the same time.

About eight o'clock on the 8th of December, two troops of life-guards, and one troop of horse-guards, marched through the city for Little Tower-hill, where they were joined by a battalion of foot-guards, to attend the execution of Charles Ratcliffe, Esq. About ten o'clock the block, with a cushion, both covered with black, were brought up, and fixed upon the stage, and soon after Mr. Ratcliffe's coffin, covered with black velvet, with eight gilt handles, and gilt nails, but there was no plate, or any inscription upon it. At near eleven the sheriffs, Mr. Alderman Winterbottom and Mr. Alderman Alsop, with their officers, came to see if the scaffold was finished, (the carpenters, &c. who had very short notice, having worked all day on Sunday and the ensuing night,) and if every thing was prepared for Mr. Ratcliffe's reception; which being to their satisfaction, they went to the Tower, and demanded of General Williamson, deputy-

governor, the body of Mr. Ratcliffe; on being surrendered, he was first put into a landau, and carried over the wharf, at the end of which he was put into a mourning-coach, and conveyed into a small booth joining to the stairs of the scaffold, lined with black, where he spent about half an hour in devotion, and then proceeded with the sheriffs, the divine, and some other gentlemen. When he came upon the scaffold, he took leave of his friends with great serenity and calmness of mind; and having spoken a few words to the executioner, gave him a purse of ten guineas, put on a damask cap, and then knelt down to prayers, which lasted about seven minutes, all the spectators on the scaffold kneeling with him. Prayers being over, he pulled off his clothes, and put his head to the block, from whence he soon got up, and having spoke a few words, he knelt down to it, and fixing his head, in about two minutes gave the signal to the executioner, who at three blows struck it off, which was received in a scarlet cloth held for that purpose. He was dressed in scarlet, faced with black velvet, trimmed with gold, a gold-laced waistcoat, and a white feather in his hat. He behaved with the greatest fortitude and coolness of temper, and was no way shocked at the approach of death.

His body was immediately put into the coffin, and carried back in a hearse to the Tower; and the scaffold, booth, and all the boards belonging to them, were cleared away in the afternoon. He behaved himself very cheerfully until the 4th, when he received a letter from his niece, the Lady Pètre, which engaged him to appear in a more serious manner. His corpse was on the 11th carried in a hearse, attended by two mourning-coaches, to St. Giles's-in-the-Fields, and there interred with the remains of the late Earl of Derwentwater, according to his desire, with this inscription on his coffin: "*Carolus Radcliffe, Comes de Derwentwater, Decollatus Die 8 Decembris, 1746. Ætatis 53. Requiescat in Pace.*"

It seems the Derwentwater estate was only confiscated to the crown for the life of Charles Ratcliffe, Esq. but by a clause in an act of parliament, passed some years since,

which says, that the issue of any person attainted of high treason, born and bred in any foreign dominion, and a Roman Catholic, shall forfeit his reversion of such estate, and the remainder shall for ever be fixed in the crown, his son is absolutely deprived of any title or interest in the affluent fortune of that ancient family, which amounted to more than 200,000*l*.

This unhappy gentleman was the youngest brother of James Earl of Derwentwater, who was executed in 1716; they were sons of Sir Francis Radcliffe, by the lady Mary Tudor, natural daughter to King Charles II., by Mrs. Mary Davis.

He died in the principles in which he had lived, and was so zealous a papist, that, on the absurdities of some things which are held sacred by the church of Rome being objected to him, he replied,

‘That for every tenet of that church, repugnant to reason, in which she requires an implicit belief, he wished there were twenty, that he might thereby have a nobler opportunity of exercising and displaying his faith.’

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## THOMAS CAPPOCK,

### *The rebel Bishop of Carlisle.*

WE have already, in our statement of the strength of the garrison at Carlisle, announced a bishop, created by the Pretender. Such anecdotes of this enthusiastie rebel, as we have been able to glean from the public prints of the year of this rebellion, we have put together, in order to allot to this would-be Right Reverend Father in God, a memoir independent of the treacherous group among whom he swung on the gallows.

On the 12th of August, 1746, the Lord Chief Baron Parker, Baron Clarke, Judges Burnett and Dennison, arrived at Carlisle, and by virtue of a special commission for that purpose to them directed, convened a court, for the purpose of trying the rebels found in arms, on the

surrender of Carlisle. On the 14th the Scotch prisoners were arraigned, but the witnesses in behalf of the crown (also Scotchmen) refused to swear in the form prescribed by the laws of England. The judges therefore, deferred the trial in order to consult on this contumacy; but next morning allowed them to take the oath after the Scotch form. Bills of indictment were found against all the officers, as well as Bishop Cappock; but the common men, amounting to near four hundred, were ordered to cast lots, and of every twenty, nineteen were to be transported, and the twentieth put upon his trial for high treason. Some few refused this lenity, depending upon so deceiving the evidence as not to recognize them; for this purpose they cut off each other's hair, changing their cloathing, and by every other method which they could devise, disguised themselves.

When the grand jury presented true bills, the whole of those indicted were brought to the bar, whom the Lord Chief Baron told, that the Court desired them to choose what counsel they pleased, with a solicitor—that the Court had given orders to their clerk, to make out subpoenas for them, gratis, and by virtue thereof, to bring forward such witnesses as they imagined could, in any manner, tend to their exculpation.

In order to give them every chance for this end, the Judges adjourned the Court, and proceeded to the city of York, where other rebels were in confinement, against seventy-nine of whom bills were found. It was near a month before they returned to Carlisle. On the 9th of September, 1762, the rebels were arraigned at the bar of the court of that city, and fifty-nine pleaded not guilty. On the 10th, forty-five more were brought up, and all pleaded not guilty, except three, one of whom was a desperate turbulent fellow, a rebel captain, named Robert Taylor, who had repeatedly vaunted that he would take Edinburgh Castle in three days.

The next day twelve more were arraigned, and among them was the rebellious bishop. He appeared at the bar in his gown and cassock, assumed much confidence, and appeared to entertain no idea that he could be con-

victed. He made a speech to the court and jury, which chiefly went to shew that he joined the rebels by compulsion alone. He called his father, and one Mary Humphries, to substantiate this assertion; but their evidence fell far short of so doing. A witness, however, proved that the prisoner had made an attempt to escape from the rebels. On the other side it was proved that he voluntarily went with the rebels from Manchester to Derby, and thence back to Carlisle. It further appeared that wherever the rebels went he read public prayers for King James and Charles Prince of Wales, Regent of England. At Manchester he preached in one of the Churches, and took his text from Psal. xcvi. 1.—“The Lord is King, the earth may be glad thereof.” At Carlisle he appeared as one of the church militant, with a hanger by his side, a plaid sash, and white cockade, acting also as a quarter-master. Another witness proved, that this fighting-bishop told him of his engaging two of the king’s soldiers, and taking them both prisoners; and he vaunted, that his prince had offered battle to the Duke of Cumberland, who ran away; that they (the rebels) returned to Scotland only to join Lord George Drummond, who had landed with many thousand French to assist their cause. His evidence, Miss Humphries, was shewn a letter, which she acknowledged to be the hand-writing of the bishop; wherein he had the effrontery to tell the barefaced falsehood of the Duke of Cumberland ordering him to be kept on half a pound of bread per day, and nasty water, because he advised to give battle to him at Stanwix, and protested against the surrender of Carlisle.

The jury, notwithstanding the confidence apparent in the prisoner through the whole trial, which lasted six hours, found him guilty in two minutes.

The priest, it seems, did not abandon himself to his fate; for in a few days it was discovered that he and six more condemned rebels had sawed off their irons, and were about to attempt an escape. The instrument with which they effected this was prepared for the purpose by a new and curious method. It is thus described:

“ They laid a silk handkerchief singly over the mouth of a drinking-glass, and tied it hard at the bottom, then struck the edge of a case-knife on the brim of the glass (thus covered to prevent noise) till it became a saw. With such knives they cut their irons, and when the teeth were blunt, they had recourse to the glass to renew it. A knife will not cut a handkerchief when struck upon it in this manner.”

Cappock was hanged at Carlisle, with the other convicted rebels, on the 28th of October, 1746.

The limits of our work will not allow us to enumerate the trials of all the rebels; and as we have given the outlines of the treason in which they were all concerned, let it suffice to say, that many were executed in different parts of the kingdom, and many of their heads placed on public buildings, and others transported to America.

Our readers may, perhaps, wish to know what became of the young Pretender, the leader of this rebellion; and, in order to gratify them, we insert the following account, the authenticity of which may be relied on:

“ The decisive battle of Culloden was fought on the 16th of April, 1746, in which engagement the Pretender had his horse shot under him, by one of the troopers in the king's service, as he was endeavouring to rally his people. After his forces were entirely defeated, he retired to the house of a factor of Lord Lovat, about ten miles from Inverness, where meeting with that nobleman, he staid supper. After supper was over he set out for Fort Augustus, and pursued his journey next day to Invergarry, where he proposed to have dined; but finding no victuals, he set a boy to fishing, who caught two salmon, on which he made a dinner, and continued waiting there for some of his troops, who had promised to rendezvous at that place; but being disappointed, he resolved to proceed to Lochharciage.

“ He arrived there on the 18th, at two in the morning, where he went to sleep, which he had not done for five days and nights. He remained there till five o'clock in the afternoon, in hopes of obtaining some intelligence; but gaining none, he set out from thence on foot, and

travelled to the Glen of Morar, where he arrived the 19th, at four in the morning. He set out about noon the same day for Arrashag, where he arrived about four in the afternoon. He remained there about seven days, waiting for Captain O'Neil, who joined him on the 27th, and informed him, that there was no hopes of drawing his troops together again in a body; upon which he resolved to go to Stornway, in order to hire a ship to go to France.

"The person employed for this purpose was one Donald M'Leod, who had an interest there. On the 28th he went on board an eight-oar'd boat, in company with Sullivan and O'Neil, ordering the people who belonged to the boat to make the best haste they could to Stornway. The night proving very tempestuous, they all begged of him to go back, which he would not do, but, to keep up the spirits of the people, he sang them a Highland song; but the weather growing worse and worse, on the 29th, about seven in the morning, they were driven on shore, on a point of land called Rushness, in the island of Benbicula, where, when they got on shore, the Pretender helped to make a fire to warm the crew, who were almost starved to death with cold. On the 30th, at six in the evening, they set sail again for Stornway, but meeting with another storm, were obliged to put into the island of Scalpa, in the Harris, where they all went on shore to a farmer's house, passing for merchants that were shipwrecked in their voyage to the Orkneys: the Pretender and Sullivan going by the names of Sinclair, the latter passing for the father, and the former his son.

"They thought proper to send from thence to Donald M'Leod at Stornway, with instructions to freight a ship for the Orkneys. On the 3d of May they received a message from him, that a ship was ready. On the 4th they set out on foot for that place, where they arrived on the 5th, about noon, and meeting with Donald M'Leod, they found that he had got into company, where growing drunk, he told a friend of his for whom he had hired the ship; upon which there were 200 people in arms at Stornway, upon a report that the Pretender was landed

with 500 men, and was coming to burn the town; so that they were obliged to lie all night upon the moor, with no other refreshment than biscuit and brandy.

“ On the 6th they resolved to go in the eight-oar'd boat to the Orkneys, but the crew refused to venture, so that they were obliged to steer south along the coast-side, where they met with two English ships, and this compelled them to put into a desert island, where they remained till the 10th, without any provision but some salt-fish they found upon the island. About ten in the morning of that day they embarked for the Harris, and at break of day on the 11th they were chased by an English ship, but made their escape among the rocks. About four in the afternoon they arrived at the island of Benbicula, where they staid till the 14th, and then set out for the mountain of Currada, in South Uist, where they staid till the militia of the isle of Sky came to the island of Irasky, and then sailed for the island of Uia, where they remained three nights, till having intelligence that the militia were coming towards Benbicula, they immediately got into their boat, and sailed for Lochbusdale; but being met by some ships of war, they were obliged to return to Lochagnart, where they remained all day, and at night sailed for Lochbusdale, where they arrived, and staid eight days on a rock, making a tent of the sail of the boat.

They found themselves there in a most dreadful situation; for having intelligence that Captain Scot had landed at Kilbride, the company was obliged to separate, and the Pretender and O'Neil went to the mountains, where they remained all night, and soon after were informed that General Campbell was at Bernary; so that now they had forces very near, on both sides of them, and were absolutely at a loss which way to move. In their road they met with a young lady, one Miss M'Donald, to whom Captain O'Neil proposed assisting the Pretender to make his escape, which she at first refused; but upon his offering to put on woman's clothes, she consented, and desired them to go to the mountain of Currada till she sent for them, where they accordingly staid

two days ; but hearing nothing from the young lady, the Pretender concluded she would not keep her word, and therefore resolved to send Captain O'Neil to General Campbell, to let him know he was willing to surrender to him ; but about five in the evening a message came from the young lady, desiring them to meet her at Rushness. Being afraid to pass by the Ford, because of the militia, they luckily found a boat, which carried them to the other side of Uia, where they remained part of the day, afraid of being seen by the country people. In the evening they set out for Rushness, and arrived there at twelve at night ; but not finding the young lady, and being alarmed by a boat full of militia, they were obliged to retire two miles back, where the Pretender remained on a moor till O'Neil went to the young lady, and prevailed upon her to come to the place appointed at night-fall of the next day.

About an hour after they had an account of General Campbell's arrival at Benbicula, which obliged them to move to another part of the island, where, as the day broke, they discovered four sail close on the shore, making directly up to the place where they were ; so that there was nothing left for them to do, but to throw themselves among the heath. When the wherries were gone, they resolved to go to Clanronald's house ; but when they were within a mile of it, they heard General Campbell was there, which forced them to retreat again.

The young Pretender having at length, with the assistance of Captain O'Neil, found Miss M'Donald in a cottage near the place appointed, it was there determined that he should put on women's clothes, and pass for her waiting-maid. This being done, he took leave of Sullivan and O'Neil with great regret, who departed to shift for themselves, leaving him and his new mistress in the cottage, where they continued some days, during which she cured him of the itch. Upon intelligence that Gen. Campbell was gone further into the country, they removed to her cousin's, and spent the night in preparing for their departure to the Isle of Sky ; accordingly they set out the next morning, with only one man-servant, named M'Lean,

and two rowers; during their voyage they were pursued by a small vessel, but a thick fog rising, they arrived safe at midnight in that island, and landed at the foot of a rock, where the lady and her maid waited while her man, M'Lean, went to see if Sir Alexander M'Donald was at home; M'Lean found his way thither, but lost it in returning back: his mistress and her maid, after in vain expecting him the whole night, were obliged in the morning to leave the rock, and go in the boat up the creek to some distance, to avoid the militia which guarded the coast.

They went on shore again about ten o'clock, and, attended by the rowers, enquired the way to Sir Alexander's, when they had gone about two miles they met M'Lean; he told his lady, that Sir Alexander was with the Duke of Cumberland, but his lady was at home, and would do them all the service she could; whereupon they discharged their boat, and went directly to the house, where they remained two days. Betty being always in her lady's chamber, except at nights, to prevent a discovery. But a party of the M'Leod's having intelligence that some strangers were arrived at Sir Alexander's, and knowing his lady was well-affected to the Pretender, came thither, and demanding to see the new-comers, were introduced to the young lady's chamber, where she sat with her new maid. The latter hearing the militia was at the door, had the presence of mind to get up and open it, which occasioned his being the less taken notice of; and after they had narrowly searched the closets, they withdrew.

The enquiry, however, alarmed the lady, and the next day she sent her maid to a steward of Sir Alexander's: but hearing that his being in the island was known, he removed to M'Donald's, at Kingsborough, ten miles distant, where he remained but one day: for, on receiving intelligence that it was rumoured he was disguised in a woman's habit, M'Donald furnished him with a suit of his own clothes, and he went in a boat to M'Leod's, at Raza; but having no prospect of escaping thence to France, he returned back on foot to the Isle of Sky, being

thirty miles, with no attendant but a ferryman, whom he would not suffer to carry his wallet, M'Leod assuring him that the elder Laird of M'Innon would there render him all the service in his power.

When he arrived, not knowing the way to M'Innon's house, he chanced to enquire of a gentleman whom he met on the top of a mountain; this gentleman having seen him before, thought he recollected his face, and asked him if he was not the P. This greatly surprised him, but seeing the gentleman had only one person, a servant, with him, he answered, I am, at the same time putting himself in a posture of defence: but this person immediately discovered himself to be his good friend Capt. M'Leod, and conducted him to M'Innon's. The old man instantly knew him, but advised him immediately to go to Lochabar, and he accordingly set sail in a vessel which M'Innon procured for that purpose.

After remaining seven days in the glens of Morar, he received advice that M'Donald, of Lochgarrie, expected him in Lochabar, where he had one hundred resolute Highlanders in arms; upon this he went over the great hill of Morar, in a tattered Highland habit, and was joyfully received by M'Donald, at the head of his men.

With this party he roved from place to place, till finding he could no longer remain in Lochabar, he removed to Badenoch; but being harassed by the king's troops, and losing daily some of his men in skirmishing, they dispersed; and the Pretender, with Lochiel, of Barrisdale, and some others, skulked about in Moidart. Here they received advice that two French privateers were at anchor in Lochnanaugh, in Moidart, on one of which, called the Happy, he embarked, with twenty-three gentlemen, and one hundred and seven common men, and soon after arrived safe in France.

## WILLIAM WHURRIER,

*Executed at Tyburn for Murder, March 7, 1748, and  
his Body hung in Chains on Finchley-Common.*

## HARD CASE . .

MURDER is a crime so heinous in its nature, and so fatal to the peace of society, that it admits of no justification; but the following is a case which cannot fail to excite compassion, both on account of the peculiar circumstances attending it, and the man's former good character and services.

This man was a native of Morpeth, in Northumberland, and brought up as a husbandman; but having enlisted as a soldier in General Cope's regiment, he served five years and a half in Flanders: but some horses being wanted for the use of the army, he and another man were sent to England to purchase them.

On the 11th of February, 1748, Whurrier and his companion walking over Finchley Common, towards Barnet, the latter being wearied, agreed with a post-boy, who went by with a led-horse, to permit him to ride to Barnet, leaving Whurrier at an alehouse on the road.

Whurrier having drunk freely, met with a woman who appeared to be his country-woman, and with her he continued drinking till both of them were intoxicated, when they proceeded together towards Barnet; but they were followed by some sailors, one of whom insulted Whurrier, telling him that he had no business with the woman.

Whurrier suspecting there was a design to injure him, asked the woman if she had any connexion with those men. She said she had not: but in the mean time the other sailors coming up, said they came to rescue the woman; on which Whurrier drew his sword, but returned it into the scabbard without annoying any one.

A soldier riding by at this instant, Whurrier told him that the sailors had ill-treated him, and begged his assistance, on which the soldier getting off his horse, the sailors ran away, and Whurrier pursuing them, overtook the first that had assaulted him, and drawing his sword,

cut him in such a manner, that he was carried in a hopeless condition to a house in the neighbourhood, where he languished till the Sunday following, and then died.

It appeared by the testimony of a surgeon, that the deceased had received a cut across the skull, as if done with a butcher's 'chopper, so that the brains lay ope ; besides a variety of other wounds.

Whurrier being taken into custody for the commission of this murder, was brought to trial at the next sessions at the Old Bailey ; and being capitally convicted on the clearest evidence, was sentenced to die.

After conviction, he said he thought there was a combination between the woman he had met with and the sailors ; and, a day or two before he suffered, he procured the following paper to be published, which he called, " Whurrier's Declaration."

" This is to let the world know that I have lived in good credit, and have served his Majesty eight years and two months. In the time of my service I have stood six campaigns, and always obeyed all lawful commands : I have been in three battles, and at Bergen-op-zoom, during the time it was besieged. The first battle was at Dettingen, June, 1743, when his Majesty headed his army: the second was in the year 1745, April 30, at Fontenoy ; the third was at Luckland, by siege ; besides several skirmishes, and other great dangers. I had rather it had been my fate to have died in the field of battle, where I have seen many thousand wallowing in their blood, than to come to such disgrace: but, alas ! I have escaped all these dangers to come to this unhappy fate, to suffer at Tyburn, and afterwards to hang in chains on a gibbet, which last is the nearest concern to me ; and I cannot help expressing, that it would be more beneficial to the public to employ blacksmiths to make breast-plates for the soldiers, than irous to inclose their bodies to be exposed to the fowls of the air.

" I have been a true subject, and a faithful servant, as is well-known to the officers of the regiment to which I belonged. If I had been a pick-pocket, or a thief, I should have suffered much more deservedly in my own

opinion than I now do; for what I did was in my own defence: I was upon the king's duty, and was assaulted by the men in sailors' habits, who gave me so many hard blows, as well as so much bad language, that I could no longer bear it, and was obliged to draw my sword in my own defence; and being in too great a passion, as well as too much in liquor, I own I struck without mercy, as thinking my life in danger, surrounded by four men, who I thought designed to murder me: who, or what they were, the Lord knows; it is plain they had a false pass, as it was proved; and that they had travelled but seven miles in nine days; but I forgive them, as I hope forgiveness: and the Lord have mercy on my soul, and the poor man's whom I killed. "W. W. HURRIER."

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### GEORGE COCK,

*A most plausible thief, executed at Tyburn, June 13, 1748, for privately stealing.*

THIS artful rogue was born in the neighbourhood of Aldgate, and at a proper age apprenticed to a peruke-maker in Spital-fields; but he absconded before the time expressed in his indenture was expired, and his master judging him to be strongly disposed to disorderly and profligate courses, pursued no measures to induce him to return.

Cock lived seven or eight years as errand-boy and porter to several tradesmen, none of whom had reason to suspect that he purloined their property: but he was held by them in no esteem, on account of his being frequently intoxicated, and associating with people of dissolute principles. It is natural to suppose, that the abandoned company he kept increased his inclination to a life of idleness, and proved the cause of his pursuing felonious courses for procuring the means of subsistence.

Having made pretensions of love to a maid-servant in

the neighbourhood of May-fair, she invited him to her master's house ; he was punctual to the appointment, and during his stay, treacherously stole a silver spoon, of about twelve shillings value.

Learning that a lady lived at Streatham whose son was abroad, he went to her house, and informed her that he was lately arrived in England, and waited upon her by the desire of the young gentleman, to assure her of the continuance of his filial affection. He was invited to partake of the best provisions the house could afford, and entertained with great liberality, kindness, and respect. After he had sufficiently refreshed himself, and secreted a large silver spoon in his pocket, he departed, intending to direct his course towards the metropolis. The spoon being missed, two servants were dispatched in search of the thief, and overtaking him at about the distance of a mile from the house, they conducted him to a magistrate, who committed him to bridewell, as a vagrant, as the lady was averse to prosecuting him for the felony. Having remained in prison about three months, and been privately whipped, he was dismissed, after the justice by whom he was committed had pathetically represented to him the disgrace, danger, and iniquity, of seeking to obtain a livelihood by illegal practices.

Upon gaining information that the father of a young gentleman of Bartholomew-lane was abroad, he went to the house, and pretended to the youth that he was preparing to embark for the country where his father resided ; saying, that as he was acquainted with the old gentleman, he should be happy to deliver any message or letter, or execute any commission with which the son might think proper to charge him. His reception here was not less hospitable than that he experienced at Streatham : and he did not take leave till he had conveyed a silver cup into his pocket, with which he got off undiscovered. He sold the cup, and expended the money it produced in the most extravagant manner.

Cock went to the house of the captain of a trading-vessel in Ratcliff-highway, whom he knew was at sea, expecting that he should be able to amuse his wife by some

plausible pretences, and to obtain a booty before he left the house. He was informed that the captain's lady was not at home, but was invited into the house by her mother, who told him that she expected her daughter's return in a very short time. Being shewn into the kitchen, he asked the maid-servant for some table-beer, and while she was gone to draw it, he secreted a large silver tankard; upon the maid's bringing the beer, he drank heartily, and then, pretending that he had some business to transact which would not permit him to stay any longer, took leave, promising to return on the following day. He sold the tankard to a Jew.

He enquired of a servant-maid in Spital-fields whether there were not some women in that neighbourhood whose husbands were in foreign parts. The girl said the husbands of two or three of her master's neighbour's were abroad, and asked the name of the person he desired to find. He said he had forgotten the name, but artfully added, that he should remember it upon hearing it repeated; in consequence of which she mentioned some names, and upon his saying that one of them was that of the party he wanted, the girl directed him to the house where the wife of his supposed friend resided. He told the woman that he was lately arrived in England, and, by her husband's particular desire, called to inform her of his being in perfect health when he embarked. He formed some trifling excuse for occasioning the woman to leave the apartment, and soon after her return he went away, taking with him a pint silver tankard and two silver table-spoons.

By the above, and other villainies of a similar nature, he gained a maintenance for several years: but it will now appear, that, notwithstanding the art he employed in the pursuit of villainy, he at length fell a just victim to the insulted laws of his country.

Cock went to two ladies in Soho-square, in one day, under the pretext of delivering messages from their husbands, who had been several years resident in foreign parts; and was received by them in the most kind and hospitable manner. He had been gone but a short time,

when one of the ladies missed some silver spoons; in consequence of which he was pursued, and taken before a magistrate: and during his examination the other appeared, and, on oath, identified a silver tankard found in the prisoner's possession. He was committed to Newgate, and at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey condemned to suffer death.

During his confinement in Newgate he shewed not the least remorse for his past offences, nor employed any part of the short time he had to exist in making the necessary preparation for the awful change he was about to experience, but flattered himself in the expectation of being reprieved. However, after learning that he was ordered for execution, he, in some degree, corrected the irregularity of his behaviour; but still his conduct was by no means such no might have been expected from a man in his dreadful situation.

He was almost wholly regardless of the devotional exercises at the place of execution, and refused to address the populace, though urged to it by the ordinary.

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### THOMAS THOMPSON,

*Executed at Tyburn, Oct. 24, 1748, for horse-stealing.*

THE parents of this offender lived at Otley, in Yorkshire: his father dying, his mother and a numerous family were left in very indigent circumstances. Thomas being arrived at a proper age, the parish-officers proposed binding him apprentice; but he declined the offer, saying, he should prefer going to sea with a captain who was come into the country to visit his mother and other relations. He accompanied the captain to Durham; and the master of the post-house in that city, thinking him an active and promising youth, hired him to wait upon his customers three days in a week, and to ride post on the others. During the three years that he remained in this station, he was guilty of stealing money out of letters, and of several other acts of delinquency; of which, how

ever, he was not suspected till some time after he had quitted his master's service.

From Durham he went to Otley, but not being able to procure employment there, he proceeded to Rippon, where he was employed as a waiter at the King's Head. In about three months he robbed his master of thirteen pounds, and absconded. Going again to the place of his nativity, he learnt that an aunt lately deceased had bequeathed him twelve pounds; and having received the legacy, and purchased some new apparel, set out for London, where in a short time he spent all his money in disorderly houses among women of ill fame. Being in circumstances of distress, he made application for relief to a relation, who behaved to him with great tenderness and generosity; notwithstanding which he availed himself of an opportunity of robbing his benefactor of two silver spoons.

He offered the spoons for sale to a silversmith near Charing-cross; but his honesty being suspected, a messenger was dispatched to enquire whether he lived at the place he had mentioned to the shopkeeper. Before the messenger's return Thompson effected his escape; and it appeared that he had given a false direction. In a few days he was met near Exeter-change by the silversmith, who insisted upon his going home with him; but being a man of an easy disposition, he was prevailed upon by the entreaties of the young villain to favour his escape.

He now returned to Otley, and a dancing meeting being held there one evening, he made one of the company: at this place he prevailed upon a young woman to consent to his partaking of her bed; but she dismissed him upon discovering that he was destitute of money. Thus disappointed, he returned to the house where he lodged, and broke open a box, whence he stole fifteen shillings.

Early the next morning he stole a horse, and rode to his late master's, at Durham, where, he said, he was employed to go to Newcastle on some business of importance, and should return on the following day. The innkeeper believed his tale, and upon his repeating his visit

the next day, gave him a hearty welcome, and expressed much pleasure at the seemingly favourable change in his situation. In the morning, however, the boy who had been with the mail to Darlington, informed Thompson that the hue-and-cry was after him on suspicion of horse-stealing. In consequence of this intelligence he took the road for Scotland, and selling the stolen horse at Berwick-upon-Tweed, proceeded on foot to Cockburn's Path, and hiring a horse there, rode to Dunbar, where having slept one night, he set out for Edinburgh in a post-chaise.

At Edinburgh he pretended to be servant to a military officer, and persuaded a young woman, who was servant at the inn where he lodged, to admit him to a share of her bed. In the morning she discovered that her box had been broke open, and her money, besides two gold rings bequeathed her by a relation, stolen thereout. She accused Thompson with the robbery, and threatened a prosecution; but was appeased upon his restoring the effects.

His next expedition was to Perth, where he engaged himself as a servant to a military officer. His master being ordered into Yorkshire upon the recruiting service, Thompson accompanied him: but thinking it unsafe to remain in a part of the country where he was well known, he stole a horse about eleven o'clock at night, and took the road to Nottingham. For this offence he was tried at the next assizes, and sentenced to die: but interest being made in his favour, he received a pardon on condition of transportation for fourteen years.

As he behaved in a remarkably decent and regular manner, the keeper of the prison granted him many indulgences, which he determined to seize an opportunity of making use of to his own advantage; and accordingly observing that, on some occasion, the maid-servant was entrusted with the keys, he seized her by surprise, and taking them from her, recovered his liberty.

Upon his escape from prison he proceeded to London, where he enlisted into a regiment then abroad, and was conducted to the Savoy: but being soon after attacked

by a fever, he was sent to an hospital. Being tolerably recovered in about two months he deserted, and going to Rochester, enlisted into a regiment lying in that city. About five weeks after his arrival in Rochester, he robbed the waiter of the house where he was quartered; and again deserting, travelled to Hatfield, in Hertfordshire, where he enlisted into a regiment, from which he also deserted in about six weeks.

He now went to Chichester, and having there entered into his Majesty's service as a marine, was ordered on board a ship, lying at Portsmouth. In about two months he was ordered on shore, and quartered in Chichester, where he robbed his lodgings; and having stolen a mare belonging to a farmer, rode towards the metropolis.

The farmer having a value for the beast, hastened to London, expecting that she would be exposed to sale in Smithfield. He put up at the White Bear, in Basinghall-street, and there found both his mare and the man who had stolen her.

Thompson being taken before the Lord-Mayor, was committed for trial at the Old Bailey, where he was convicted, and sentenced to die.

When he was confined in the cells of Newgate, he appeared to be struck with a consciousness of the enormity of his guilt. He constantly attended Divine service in the chapel; and when visited by the ordinary, behaved in a manner that evinced the sincerity of his repentance.

## THE THIEF, THE PRIESTS, AND THE GREAT KING OF PRUSSIA.

### *An Anecdotal Fact, and a Touch at Superstition.*

To this monarch have many good sayings been ascribed; for many noble and generous deeds has he been accredited; and more is yet due to his memory than comes to the share of conscience in a whole batch of Buonaparte's kings.

A Prussian soldier, on duty in a small garrison town in Silesia, being suspected of making free with some

offerings made by pious catholics to the blessed Virgin, was watched and detected, and two silver hearts were found upon him, for which he was sentenced to die. The man pleaded innocence, and insisted that the Virgin, in pity to his poverty, had appeared to him, and ordered him to take the two pieces. And on this plea he appealed to the King, who, on the soldier's representation, consulted with the ablest of the Roman catholic divines, if they thought such a miracle impossible; who unanimously declared, that the case was extraordinary, but not impossible.

On which his Majesty wrote, with his own hand, words to the following effect:

"The convict cannot justly be put to death, because he owes the present of the two pieces of silver to the bounty of the blessed Virgin; and the divines of his religion are unanimously of opinion, that the miracle wrought in his favour is not impossible; but have strictly forbid him to receive any more such presents from any saint whatever.

"FREDERICK."

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## JOHN YOUNG,

(A brave soldier of fortune, who through avarice brought himself to the gallows,)

*Executed at Edinburgh, Dec. 19, 1748.*

"Man wants but little here below,

"Nor wants that little long."

THERE has seldom occurred a more extraordinary case than that of Serjeant-major and Paymaster Young. The methods he took to avoid his fate, and the desperate resistance he made against being carried to execution, is, we believe, unparalleled in criminal chronology. His services to the state could not, however, palliate his crime; which shut out to his sovereign every avenue of mercy.

He was born of a protestant family, at Belfast, in Ireland, and received a liberal education. At the usual

time of life he was apprenticed to a linen-draper, residing in the town where he was born. Having served about three years, his master died; and as the widow declined business, he engaged as clerk to a wholesale dealer, whose goods were principally sent to the London market and Chester fair.

He remained with his employer till his arrival at manhood; but at length absconded, in consequence of one of his master's servant-maids proving with child by him. He intended to settle in Dublin, but in his way to that city he met with a recruiting-party belonging to the fourth regiment of foot, who urged him to drink till he became intoxicated, and then prevailed upon him to enlist.

Young being handsome in person, and accomplished in manners, was soon distinguished by his officers, who upon the first vacancy promoted him to be a sergeant. He marched from Tournay to join the regiment at Ghent, in Flanders, and arrived but a few days preceding that on which the terrible battle of Fontenoy was fought. His behaviour in that action was greatly commended by his officers, who, upon the return of the regiment to Ghent, conferred upon him many instances of particular respect, and appointed him paymaster to the company to which he belonged.

The regiment in which Young was a sergeant was one of those ordered into Scotland, for the purpose of suppressing the rebellion, which broke out soon after the battle of Fontenoy; but as a considerable loss of private men had been sustained, he was ordered to go upon the recruiting-service to Chester, Manchester, Liverpool, and other places.

The recruits engaged by Young were paid the bounty-money without the least deduction, and he would not encourage them to spend any part of it in an extravagant or useless manner. In the space of four months he raised an hundred and fifty men; and it is presumed that the strict integrity of his conduct greatly promoted his success. Upon joining his regiment in Scotland, his officers advanced him to the post of sergeant-major, as a reward for his services. At the battle of Falkirk he put several

of the rebels to death with his halbert, and behaved in other respects with remarkable intrepidity.

Upon the command of the army being assumed by the duke of Cumberland, the regiment to which Young belonged was ordered to march to the North. On account of the singular bravery they displayed at the battle of Culloden, and the great slaughter of men, this regiment was not ordered to return to Flanders, but permitted to remain in Scotland.

Upon tranquillity being re-established in the Highlands, the fourth regiment was ordered to perform duty in Edinburgh Castle, and Young was dispatched to Bristol upon a recruiting expedition. He enlisted a considerable number of men at Bristol, and on his return to Scotland his officers complimented him with a handsome present. He was now sent to raise recruits in Yorkshire; and while at Sheffield, in that county, he engaged in a criminal intercourse with the wife of an innkeeper, who, when he was preparing to depart, secreted property to a considerable amount, and followed her lover to Scotland. In a short time the innkeeper came to Edinburgh in search of his wife, and complained in passionate terms of the cruel and treacherous treatment he had received. The nature of his connection with the woman being made public, Young appeared to be greatly disconcerted whenever he met with persons to whom he supposed the matter had been communicated; but, in justice to his character, we must observe that, so far from encouraging the woman to rob her husband, he was entirely ignorant of every thing relating to that matter till her husband's arrival at Edinburgh.

Notwithstanding the above affair, Young was still held in much esteem by his officers; and in a short time the regiment was ordered to proceed to the North, and remained in the royal barracks at Inverness for about a twelvemonth.

Young being both sergeant-major and paymaster, many notes on the bank of Scotland necessarily came into his possession. While looking over some of these notes in the guard-room, a man named Parker, whom he had

enlisted in England, observed, that if he had a few tools he could engrave a plate for counterfeiting the notes on the Edinburgh bank. Young seemed to give but little attention to what the other said ; but took him to an ale-house on the following day, and requested an explanation as to the manner of executing the scheme he had suggested. Parker informed him, that, besides engraving an exact resemblance of the letters and figures, he could form a machine for printing such notes, as should not be known from those of the Scotch bank.

In short, Young hired a private apartment for Parker, and supplied him with every implement necessary for carrying the iniquitous plan into effect ; and, in a short time, some counterfeit notes were produced, bearing a near resemblance to the real ones. Upwards of six months elapsed before the fraud was detected.

Orders being issued for the regiment to march to England, Young determined to procure cash for as many notes as possible previous to his departure from Inverness, knowing that in the southern parts the forgery would be liable to immediate detection. With this view, he applied to Mr. Gordon, who was concerned in the stocking-manufactory at Aberdeen, and prevailed upon him to give sixty pounds in cash for notes expressing to be of the same value.

On his journey from Inverness, Mr. Gordon parted with several of the notes at different places : but upon reaching Aberdeen, an advertisement in the newspapers, in the name of the governors of the bank at Edinburgh, convinced him that he had been deceived. In consequence of this Mr. Gordon wrote to the sheriff of Inverness, who immediately took Young into custody, and found three hundred notes, and the copper-plate from which they had been printed, in his possession.

Parker was admitted an evidence for the crown, and Young was removed to Edinburgh for trial before the high court of justiciary. After a trial that lasted a whole day, Young was pronounced to be guilty, and sentenced to suffer death.

While this malefactor was under confinement, he would

not consent to be visited by the clergy, though several, from motives of humanity, were desirous of using their endeavours to prepare him for eternity. He was informed by his fellow-prisoners, that if he could procrastinate his execution beyond the appointed time, his life would of necessity be preserved; for that the crown law of Scotland declared, that condemned prisoners should be executed between two and four o'clock on the days expressed. Being ignorant of the law, the unhappy man was amused by this story; and hoped to escape punishment by the following means: he secured the strong iron door of the room wherein he was confined in such a manner, that when the gaoler came, in order to conduct him to the place of execution, he could not gain admittance.

Upwards of fifty carpenters, smiths, masons, and other artificers, were sent for to open a passage, but they all declined undertaking a business which they deemed to be impracticable; and they were unanimously of opinion, that an aperture could not be made in the wall without endangering the whole fabric.

Matters being thus circumstanced, the lord-provost and the rest of the magistrates assembled at the prison; and, after long debates, it was determined to form an opening to the room, by breaking through the floor of that immediately above.

The opening being made, the prisoner leaped up, and seizing a musket from one of the city-guards, declared, with an oath, that if any man attempted to molest him, he would immediately dash out his brains. Six of the soldiers, however, suddenly descended, and one of them received a terrible blow from the prisoner; but he was, immediately after, secured by the other five, and executed.

B. TAPNER, J. COBBY, J. HAMMOND, W. JACKSON, W. CARTER, R. MILLS, THE ELDER, AND R. MILLS, THE YOUNGER, (FATHER AND SON,)

(SMUGGLERS AND MURDERERS, OF THE MOST BARBAROUS DESCRIPTION,)

*Executed at Colchester, June 18, 1749.*

WHILE London and its environs were beset with gangs of highwaymen and pickpockets, the country was infested by villains not less dangerous, and much more cruel, who preyed upon the public by defrauding the revenue.

Smugglers formerly went in parties, strong enough to oppose the officers of excise; and, whenever a custom-house officer fell into their hands, he was most barbarously treated, and often murdered.

The two unfortunate men who were cruelly murdered by this gang of desperate villains, were W. Galley, the elder, a custom-house officer in Southampton; and D. Chater, a shoemaker, of Fordingbridge. Having been sent to give information, respecting some circumstances attending the daring burglary into the custom-house at Poole, and not returning to their respective homes, a suspicion arose that they had been waylaid, and murdered by the smugglers; and a search for them was therefore instituted.

Those employed for this purpose, after every inquiry, could hear no certain tidings of them; as the fear of the smugglers' resentment, silenced such inhabitants on the road, over which they had carried the unfortunate men, as were not in connection with them. At length, a Mr. Stone, following his hounds, came to a spot, which appeared to have been dug not long before; and the publicity of the circumstances of those men being missed, he conjectured that they might have been buried there, and, upon digging nearly seven feet in the earth, were found the remains of Galley, but in so putrid a state, as not to be known, except by the clothes. The search after

Chater was now pursued with redoubled vigilance, till found in a well, six miles distant from Galley, in Harris Wood, near Lady Holt Park, with a quantity of stones, wooden rails, and earth, upon him.

B. Tapner, J. Cobby, J. Hammond, W. Carter, R. Mills the elder; and R. Mills the younger, were indicted for the murder of D. Chater; the three first as principals, and the others as accessaries, before the fact; W. Jackson and W. Carter, were indicted for the murder of W. Galley.

B. Tapner was a native of Aldington, in Sussex, and worked, for some time, as a bricklayer; but being of an idle disposition, he soon quitted his business, and associated with a gang of smugglers, who had rendered themselves formidable to the neighbourhood, by their lawless depredations.

J. Cobby was an illiterate country fellow, the son of J. Cobby, of the county of Sussex, labourer; and joined the smugglers a little before he was thirty years of age.

J. Hammond was a labouring man, born at Berstead, in Sussex, and had been a smuggler some time before he was apprehended for the above-mentioned murders, which was when he was about forty years old.

W. Jackson was a native of Hampshire, and had a wife and large family. He was brought up to the business of husbandry; but the hope of acquiring more money in an easier way, induced him to engage with the smugglers, which at length ended in his ruin.

W. Carter, of Rowland's Castle, in Hampshire, was the son of W. Carter, of Eastmean, in the same county, thatcher. He was about the age of thirty-nine, and had practised smuggling a considerable time before the perpetration of the fact which led to his destruction.

R. Mills, the elder, was a native of Trotton, in Sussex, and had been a horse-dealer by profession; but, it is said, a failure in that business induced him to commence smuggler; and he had been long enough in that illicit practice to become one of the most hardened of the gang.

R. Mills, the younger, lived at Stedham, in Sussex,

and, for some time, followed his father's profession of horse-dealing; but, unfortunately, making a connection with the smugglers, he came to the same ignominious end as his companions, in the thirty-seventh year of his age.

The two men, Galley and Chater, went on Sunday, Feb. 14, 1748, to major Batten, a justice of the peace, at Stanstead, in Sussex, with a letter, written by Mr. Shearer, collector of the customs at Southampton, requesting him to take an examination of Chater, concerning one Diamond, or Dymar, who was committed to Chichester gaol, on suspicion of being one who broke the King's warehouse at Poole. Chater was engaged to give evidence, but with some reluctance, having declared that he saw Diamond, and shook hands with him, who, with many others, was coming from Poole, loaded with tea, of which he threw him a bag. Having passed Havant, and coming to the New Inn, at Leigh, they enquired their way, when G. Austin, his brother, and brother-in-law, said that they were going the same road, and would accompany them to Rowland's Castle, where they might get better direction, it being just by Stanfield Park.

A little before noon, they came to the White Hart at Rowland's Castle, kept by Eliz. Payne, widow, who had two sons, blacksmiths, in the same village. After some talk, she told G. Austin, privately, she was afraid that these two strangers were come to hurt the smugglers. He said, No, sure; they were only carrying a letter to major Batten. Upon this, she sent one of her sons for W. Jackson and W. Carter, who lived near her house. Meanwhile, Chater and Galley wanted to be going, and asked for their horses; but she told them, that the major was not at home, which, indeed, was true.

As soon as Jackson and Carter came, she told them her suspicions, with the circumstance of the letter. Soon after, she advised G. Austin to go away, lest he should come to some harm; he did so, leaving his brothers.

Payne's other son went and fetched in W. Steele, S.

Downer, (otherwise Little Samuel,) Edm. Richards, and H. Sheerman, (otherwise Little Harry,) all smugglers, belonging to the same gang.

After they had drank a little while, Carter, who had some knowledge of Chater, called him into the yard and asked him where Diamond was? Chater said, he believed he was in custody, and that he was going to appear against him, which he was sorry for, but could not help it. Galley came into the yard to them, and asking Chater why he would stay there? Jackson, who followed him, said, with a horrid imprecation, What is that to you? and immediately struck him a blow in the face, which knocked him down, and set his nose and mouth a bleeding. Soon after, they all came into the house, where Jackson, reviling Galley, offered to strike him again, but one of the Paines interposed.—Galley and Chater now began to be very uneasy, and wanted to be going; but Jackson, Carter, and the rest of them, persuading them to stay and drink more rum, and make it up, for they were sorry for what had happened, they sat down again; Austin and his brother-in-law being present.—Jackson and Carter desired to see the letter, but they refused to shew it. The smugglers then drank about plentifully, and made Galley and Chater fuddled; then persuaded them to lie down on a bed, which they did, and fell asleep. The letter was then taken away, and read; and, the substance of it greatly exasperating them, it was destroyed.

One John Royce, a smuggler, now came in; and Jackson and Carter told him the contents of the letter, and that they had got the old rogue, the shoe-maker, of Fordingbridge, who was going to inform against J. Diamond, the shepherd, then in custody at Chichester.—Here W. Steele proposed to take them both to a well, about two hundred yards from the house, and to murder and throw them in.

This proposal was not taken, as they had been seen in their company by the Austins, Mr. Garnet, and one Mr. Jenks, who was newly come into the house to drink. It was next proposed to send them to France; but that was

objected against, as there was a possibility of their coming over again. Jackson and Carter's wives being present, cried out, Hang the dogs, for they are come here to hang you. It was then proposed and agreed, to keep them confined till they could know Diamond's fate; and whatever it was, to treat these in the same manner; and each to allow threepence a week towards keeping them.

Galley and Chater continuing asleep, Jackson went in, and began the first scene of cruelty; for having put on his spurs, he got upon the bed, and spurred their foreheads, to wake them, and afterwards whipped them with a horse-whip; so that when they came out, they were both bleeding. The abovesaid smugglers then took them out of the house; but Richards returned with a pistol, and swore he would shoot any person who should mention what had passed.

Meanwhile, the rest put Galley and Chater on one horse, tied their legs under the horse's belly, and then tied both their legs together; they now set forward, all but Race, who had no horse. They had not gone above two hundred yards before Jackson called out, Whip 'em, cut 'em, slash 'em, d—n 'em; upon which all began to whip, except Steele, who led the horse, the roads being very bad. They whipped them for half a mile, till they came to Woodash, where they fell off, with their heads under the horse's belly, and their legs, which were tied, appeared over the horse's back. Their tormentors soon set them upright again, and continued whipping them over the head, face, shoulders, &c. till they came to Dean, upwards of half a mile farther; here they both fell again, as before, with their heads under the horse's belly, which were struck, at every step, by the horse's hoofs.

Upon placing them again on the saddle, they found them so weak, that they could not sit; upon which they separated them, and put Galley before Steele, and Chater before Little Sam, and then whipped Galley so severely, that the lashes coming upon Steele, at his desire they desisted. They then went to Harris's Well, near Lady Holt Park, where they took Galley off the horse, and threatened to throw him into the well. Upon which

he desired them to dispatch him at once, and put an end to his misery. No, said Jackson, cursing, if that's the case, we have more to say to you; then put him on a horse again, and whipped him over the Downs, till he was so weak, that he fell off; when they laid him across the saddle, with his breast downwards, and Little Sam got up behind him, and, as they went on, he squeezed Galley's testicles, so that he groaned with the agony, and tumbled off: being then put on astride, Richards got up behind him, but soon the poor man cried out, I fall, I fall, I fall! and Richards pushing him said, Fall, and be d—n'd. Upon which he fell down; and the villains thinking this fall had broke his neck, laid him again on the horse, and proposed to go to some proper place, where Chater might be concealed till they heard the fate of Diamond.

Jackson and Carter called at one Pescod's house, desiring admittance for two sick men; but he absolutely refused it.

Being now one o'clock in the morning, they agreed to go to one Scardefield's, at the Red Lion, at Rake, which was not far. Here Carter and Jackson got admittance, after many refusals. While Scardefield went to draw liquor, he heard more company come in; but though they refused to admit him into the room, he saw one man standing up very bloody, and another lying as dead. They said they had engaged some officers, lost their tea, and several of them were wounded, if not killed.

Jackson and Little Harry now carried Chater down to one Old Mill's, which was not far off, and chained him in a turf-house, and Little Harry staying to watch him, Jackson returned again to the company.—After they had drank gin and rum they all went out, taking Galley with them; Carter compelled Scardefield to shew them the place where they used to bury their tea, and to lend them spades and a candle and 'lantern: there they began to dig, and, it being very cold, he helped to make a hole, where they buried something that lay across a horse, like a dead man.

They continued at Scardefield's, drinking all that day,

and in the night went to their own homes, in order to be seen on Tuesday, agreeing to meet again upon Thursday at the same house, and bring more of their associates. They met accordingly, and brought old Richard Mills, and his sons Richard and John, Tho. Stringer, John Cobby, Benj. Tapner, and John Hammond, who, with the former, made fourteen. They consulted now what was to be done with Chater; it was unanimously agreed that he must be destroyed. R. Mills, jun. proposed to load a gun, clap the muzzle to his head, tie a long string to the trigger, then all to pull it, that all might be equally guilty of his murder. This was rejected, because it would put him out of his pain too soon; and at length they came to a resolution to carry him up to Harris's Well, which was not far off, and throw him in.

All this while, Chater was in the utmost horror and misery, being visited by one or other of them, who abused him both with words and blows. At last they all came, and Tapner and Cobby going into the turf-house, the former pulled out a clasp-knife, and said, with a great oath, Down on your knees, and go to prayers, for with this knife I'll be your butcher. The poor man knelt down; and, as he was at prayers, Cobby kicked him, calling him informing villain. Chater asking what they had done with Mr. Galley, Tapner slashed his knife across his eyes, almost cutting them out, and the gristle of his nose quite through: he bore it patiently, believing they were putting an end to his misery. Tapner struck at him again, and made a deep cut in his forehead. Upon this, old Mills said, Do not murder him here, but somewhere else. Accordingly they placed him upon a horse, and all set out together for Harris's Well, except Mills and his sons, they having no horses ready, and saying, in excuse, That there were enough, without them, to murder one man. All the way, Tapner whipped him till the blood came, and then swore, that if he blooded the saddle, he would torture him the more.

When they were come within two hundred yards of the well, Jackson and Carter stopped, saying to Tapner, Cobby, Stringer, Steele, and Hammond, Go on and do your

duty on Chater, as we have our's upon Galley.—In the dead of the night, of the 18th, they brought him to the well, which was near 30 feet deep, but dry, and paled close round. Tapner having fastened a noose round Chater's neck, they bid him get over the pales to the well. He was going through a broken place; but though he was covered with blood, and fainting with the anguish of his wounds, they forced him to climb up, having the rope about his neck, one end of which being tied to the pales, they pushed him into the well; but the rope being short, he hung no farther within it than his thighs, and, leaning against the edge, he hung above a quarter of an hour, and was not strangled. They then untied him, and threw him head foremost into the well. They tarried some time, and hearing him groan, they concluded to go to one Win. Comleah's, a gardener, to borrow a rope and ladder, saying, they wanted to relieve one of their companions, who had fallen into Harris's Well. He said they might take them. But they could not manage the ladder, in their confusion, it being a long one.

They then returned to the well; and still finding him groan, and fearing that he might be heard, so as to make a discovery, the place being near the road, they threw upon him some of the rails and gate-posts fixed about the well, and also some great stones; when, finding him silent, they left him.

The next consultation was how to dispose of the two horses. To prevent discovery, they killed Galley's, which was grey, and took his hide off, cut it into small pieces, and hid them; but a bay horse, which Chater rode on, got from them.

This daring gang, being now broken, a number of witnesses came forward on their trial, and two of their accomplices being pardoned, were admitted evidence against them. The charge, in all its horrors, was fully proved; whereupon the judge, Sir Michael Foster, pronounced sentence on the convicts, in one of the most pathetic addresses that was ever heard; representing the enormity of the crime, and exhorting them to make immediate preparation for the awful fate that awaited them; adding,

that "Christian charity obliges me to tell you, that your time in this world will be very short."

The heinousness of the crime, of which these men had been convicted, rendering it necessary that their punishment should be exemplary, the judge ordered that they should be executed on the following day; and the sentence was accordingly carried into execution against all but Jackson, who died in prison on the evening that he was condemned. They were attended by two ministers, and all, but Mills and his son (who took no notice of each other, and thought themselves not guilty, because they were not present at the finishing of the inhuman murder), shewed great marks of penitence. Tapner and Carter gave good advice to the spectators, and desired diligence might be used to apprehend Richards, whom they charged as the cause of their being brought to this wretched end. Young Mills smiled several times at the executioner, who was a discharged marine, and having ropes too short for some of them was puzzled to fit them. Old Mills being forced to stand tip-toe to reach the halter, desired that he might not be hanged by inches. The Mills's were so rejoiced at being told that they were not to be hanged in chains after execution, that death seemed to excite in them no terror; while Jackson was so struck with horror, at being measured for his irons, that he soon expired.

They were hanged at Chichester, on the 18th of January, 1749, amidst such a concourse of spectators as is seldom seen on such occasions.

Carter was hung in chains, near Rake, in Sussex; Tapner on Rook's hill, near Chichester; and Cobby and Hammond at Cesley Isle, on the beach where they sometimes landed their smuggled goods, and where they could be seen at a great distance, east and west.

Jackson had lived some years a Roman catholic; and, from the following popish relic found in his pocket, there is but little doubt but he died such:

Sancti tres reges,  
Gaspar, Melchior, Belthazar,  
Orate pro nobis, nunc et in horâ

## Mortis nostræ.

Ces billets ont touché aux trois têtes de  
S. S. Rois à Cologne.

Ils sont pour des voyageurs, contre les malheurs de chemins, maux de tête, mal caduque, fièvres, socellerie, toute sorte de malefice, et mort subite.

The English of which is,

Ye three holy kings,

Gaspar, Melchior, Belthazar,

Pray for us now, and in the hour of death.

These papers have touched the three heads of

The holy kings of Cologne.

They are to preserve travellers from accidents on the road, head-achs, falling-sickness, fevers, witchcraft, all kinds of mischief, and sudden death.

The body of Jackson was thrown into a hole, near the place of execution; as were the bodies of Mills, the father and son, who had no friends to take them away; and at a small distance from the spot is erected a stone, on which is the following inscription:

Near this place was buried the body of William Jackson, who upon a special commission of Oyer and Terminer, held at Chichester, on the 16th day of January, 1748-9, was, with William Carter, attainted for the murder of William Galley, custom-house officer; and who likewise was, together with Benjamin Tapner, John Cobby, John Hammond, Richard Mills the elder, Richard Mills the younger, his son, attainted for the murder of Daniel Chater; but dying in a few hours after sentence of death was pronounced upon him, he thereby escaped the punishment which the heinousness of his complicated crimes deserved, and which was, the next day, most justly inflicted upon his accomplices.

As a memorial to posterity, and a warning to this,  
and succeeding generations,

This stone is erected

A. D. 1749.

## USHER GAHAGAN AND TERENCE CONNOR.

*Men of great Learning, executed for High Treason, in diminishing the current Coin of the Realm, Feb. 28, 1749.*

How lamentable is the consideration that great geniuses are so often lost to common honesty ! and how degraded is human nature, by the ignominious death of those, whose attainments might have rendered them worthy and useful members of society !

Usher Gahagan and Terence Conner were natives of Ireland. The former received his education in Trinity College, Dublin, a severer ordeal than the English universities, and was intended for the honourable profession of the law, in which several of his relations had become eminent.

He had been instructed by his parents in the protestant religion ; but falling into company with some priests of the Romish persuasion, they converted him to their faith, which was a principal obstacle to his future advancement in life ; for as no gentleman can be admitted a counsellor at law, without taking the oaths of supremacy and adjuration ; and as Mr. Gahagan's new faith prevented his complying with these terms, he declined any further prosecution of his legal studies. His parents and other relations were greatly offended with his conduct ; and those who had particularly engaged themselves for the advancement of his fortune, forbade him to visit them, through indignation at the impropriety of his behaviour.

Thus reduced to an incapacity of supporting himself, he sought to relieve his circumstances by a matrimonial scheme : and having addressed the daughter of a gentleman, he obtained her in marriage, and received a good fortune with her : but treating her with undeserved severity, she was compelled to return to the protection of her relations. His conduct having now rendered him obnoxious to his acquaintance in Dublin, he quitted *that*

city, and repaired to London, with a view of supporting himself by his literary abilities.

On his arrival in the metropolis, he made some connections with the booksellers ; and undertook to translate Pope's Essay on Man into Latin ; but becoming connected with some women of abandoned character, he spent his time in a dissipated manner, and thus threw himself out of that employment which might have afforded him a decent support.

He now made an acquaintance with an Irishman, named Hugh Coffey, and they agreed on a plan for the diminution of the current coin. At this time Gahagan had a lodger named Conner (whose case will be seen in the sequel of this account); and it being agreed to receive him as a partner in this iniquitous scheme, they procured proper tools, and having collected a sum of money, they filed it, and put it off; and procuring more, filed that also, and passed it in the same manner.

Having continued this business some months, during which they had saved a sum of money, they went to the bank, and got some Portugal pieces, under pretence that they were intended for exportation to Ireland. Thus they got money repeatedly at the bank ; but at length one of the tellers suspecting their business, communicated his suspicion to the governors, who directed him to drink with them, as the proper method to discover who they were, and what was their employment.

In pursuance of this order, he, on their next appearance, invited them to drink a glass of wine at the Crown tavern, near Cripplegate ; to which they readily agreed, and met him after the hours of office.

When the circulation of the glass had sufficiently warmed them, Gahagan, with a degree of weakness that is altogether astonishing, informed the teller that he acquired considerable sums by filing gold, and even proposed that he should become a partner with them. The gentleman seemed to accede to the proposal, and having learned where they lodged, acquainted the cashiers of the bank with what had passed.

On the following day Coffey was apprehended ; but Gahagan and Conner, being suspicious of the danger of their situation, retired to a public-house, called Chalk Farm, a little way out of the road from London to Hampstead, where they carried their implements for filing ; but Coffey having been admitted an evidence, it was not long before the place of their retreat was known on which they were apprehended and lodged in Newgate.

Terence Conner was a native of Ireland, and had received a most liberal education. It is recorded of him, that he was so perfectly well read in Roman history, as to be able to turn to any part of it, without the assistance of an index. He was, by birth, heir to a considerable fortune ; but his father dying without a proper adjustment of his affairs, some intricate law-suits were the consequence ; so that the whole estate was only sufficient to discharge the demands of the lawyers.

Conner being reduced in circumstances, came to London, and, becoming acquainted with Gahagan and Coffey, was concerned in diminishing the coin, as above-mentioned.

On their trial, the evidence of Coffey was positive ; and being supported by collateral proofs, the jury could not hesitate to find them guilty, and they received sentence of death.

After conviction, the behaviour of these unhappy men was strictly proper for their circumstances : they were extremely devout, and apparently resigned to their fate.

Gahagan, as we have already shewn, was an excellent scholar. He was the editor of "Brindley's Edition of the Classics." He translated Pope's "Essay on Criticism," into Latin verse ; and "The Temple of Fame," and "The Messiah," when in prison ; which he dedicated to the Duke of Newcastle, then prime minister, in hopes of obtaining a pardon.

## JOHN COLLINGTON, AND HIS ACCOMPLICE JOHN STONE.

*Executed at Canterbury, for setting Fire to a Barn ;  
a Crime by the Law called Arson.*

IN the history of Collington, we find an uncommon share of depravity of mind united to cruelty and vice of every description.

The father of John Collington was rector of Pluckley, near Sandwich, in Kent ; and the youth was qualified, by a most liberal education, and his great natural talents, to have made a very respectable figure in life ; but his passions were so violent, and his revenge so implacable, that all who knew him beheld him with horror.

He used to declare, that he would be a sincere friend, but an inveterate foe ; and even, while at school, created such dissensions among the other scholars, that he was held in universal contempt, and was discharged from more schools than one with marks of ignominy.

At length his father apprenticed him to a grocer in Newgate-street, London ; but he behaved in such a manner as to become an object of terror to his fellow-servants. The following circumstance, trifling as it is, will serve to mark his disposition : One of the maid-servants desiring him to fetch some mustard, he went out for that purpose ; but calling a coach at the door, he drove to Cheapside, purchased the mustard, and on his return, paid the fare out of his master's money in the till. The master, astonished at his behaviour, demanded the reason of it : when he gave for answer, that " his parents had not bound him apprentice to be an errand boy."

On another occasion he asked his master's permission to visit his relations for a fortnight, and his request was complied with. When the time of his departure arrived, his master being absent, he asked his mistress to give him leave to stay three weeks, to which she consented. But he returned not till the end of five weeks ; and his

master enquiring why he had been so long absent, Collington replied that he had allowed him a fortnight, and his mistress three weeks, so that he had not out-staid his time. This duplicity of conduct incensed the master so, that he gave up his indentures, and discharged him.

Having served the remainder of his apprenticeship with a grocer of Maidstone, he opened a shop at Rye, in Sussex, where he lived for some years ; but his temper was so bad, that he fomented perpetual discord among his neighbours ; in consequence of which law-suits arose, and scarce any one would deal with a man whom every one had reason to hate.

From this place he went to Charing, in Kent, where he likewise kept a shop a considerable time ; but the same conduct which had rendered him an object of contempt at Rye made him equally obnoxious to the inhabitants of this latter place.

Collington had not been long in business before he married a young lady, with whom he received a considerable fortune, and by whom he had ten children, four of whom were living at the time of their father's fatal exit.

The conduct of this man towards his wife and children was the most extravagant that can be imagined. The six children who died he buried in his own garden, nor would he permit any of them to be baptized. He frequently beat his children in a barbarous manner ; and when the mother interposed in their behalf, he used to confine her whole nights in a saw-pit.

Being remarkably fond of sporting, his wife, when big with child, requested that he would procure her a partridge ; in consequence of which he went out, and shot several : but when the birds were dressed, and ready for the table, one of the children happening to offend him, he corrected it in so severe a manner, as to endanger its life ; and the mother interposing for the preservation of the child, he was so enraged that he cut the partridges in pieces, and threw them to the cats and dogs.

This instance of worse than savage ferocity so affected his wife, that she fell into fits, and miscarried : but she

had not been long recovered, when on her interposing, in behalf of one of the children, whom he was treating with severity, he threw her down stairs, and stamped on her breast, which gave rise to a cancer that occasioned her death.

Collington's father dying soon after this event, he succeeded to a good estate at Throwleigh, in Kent, to which place he removed, and took to the practice of exporting wool, contrary to law ; for which he was prosecuted in the court of exchequer, and convicted to pay a large penalty ; but he avoided payment, by having previously conveyed his estate to another, and then swearing that he was not worth five pounds.

This man being passionately fond of hunting was frequently prosecuted for offending against the game laws, by which he was put to almost continual expense.

Notwithstanding the treatment his first wife had received from him, he soon married a second, by whom he had six children ; and four of these, besides the same number by the former marriage (as we have mentioned), were living at the time of his death.

At length, his offences against the laws made for the preservation of the game became so numerous, that the dowager countess of Rockingham built a cottage, in which she placed one of her servants, as a spy upon his conduct.

Collington, incensed by this circumstance, tempted a poor countryman to set fire to the cottage ; but the man had courage and honesty enough to resist the temptation. Hereupon Collington took one of his servants, named Luckhurst, to Faversham, in Kent, at the time of the fair ; and on their way thither, told him, he would give him half-a-guinea to fire the said cottage : which the man received, and promised to comply.

On the following day, when Luckhurst recollected the nature of the contract he had been making, his mind was so disturbed, that he went to Collington, and offered back the money, declaring that he would have no share in the transaction. Collington was so enraged, that he threatened to destroy him, unless he kept the money,

and did as he had agreed : the consequence of which was, the man fired the cottage at midnight, by which it was reduced to the ground.

Collington was so neglectful of his children, that he would not buy them necessary apparel, so that they appeared like beggars ; nor would he even pay for their learning to read. The following is a striking proof of his want of humanity : one of his sons, a boy twelve years old, having offended him, he confined him in a saw-pit, where he must have been starved, but that he was occasionally supplied with food by the humanity of the servants ; and for this conduct their brutal master turned them out of the house, without paying what was due to them.

This inhuman father then refused to maintain his son, so that the child absolutely begged his bread in the neighbourhood ; but he had not wandered long in this manner, when Mr. Clarke, the churchwarden, received him into his house, and provided for him till the quarter-sessions, when he submitted the case to the consideration of the magistrates.

These gentlemen having reflected that Mr. Collington was in affluent circumstances, gave directions, that the child should be properly provided for ; and issued a warrant for seizing on part of the father's effects, to defray the charge. This warrant was executed by a constable, whom Clarke attended : a circumstance which gave such offence to Collington, that he vowed revenge, and bade Clarke make his will.

After this he hired five fellows to go to Mr. Clarke's house, and demand the child, on pretence that he belonged to a ship ; but Mr. Clarke, having the magistrate's order for his proceedings, said, he was willing to answer for his conduct before any justices of the peace. No sooner had he thus expressed himself, than they beat him in the most violent degree, and threatened his instant destruction, unless he consented to accompany them.

These threats had such an effect, that he mounted a horse behind one of them ; but, as they were riding

along, he jumped off, and ran into the court-yard of a gentleman, whose gate happened to stand open, while the other parties fired at him ; but he escaped unhurt. Here he remained till the following day, when he went to his own house, and thence to a magistrate, before whom he swore the peace against Collington ; on which the magistrate granted his warrant for the apprehension of the offender, who, refusing to give bail for his good behaviour was lodged in the gaol of Canterbury.

During his confinement, he continually threatened vengeance against Clarke ; and to execute his purpose, he sent for a labouring man, named Stone, and the above-mentioned Luckhurst, and offered them a guinea each, on the condition of their setting fire to Mr. Clarke's barn, in which a considerable quantity of corn was deposited. The villains agreeing to this bargain, fired the barn at midnight, and likewise a number of hay-ricks, all of which were destroyed.

Mr. Clarke suspecting that Collington was the contriver of this horrid scheme, made application to a magistrate, who issued an order that the prisoner should be more closely confined, and that the gaol-keeper should take particular notice of his visitors. This precaution led to a discovery of the offenders ; for Luckhurst coming to procure more money of Collington, he was taken into custody, and conducted before a justice of the peace, to whom he confessed the affair ; and being admitted an evidence, Stone was soon taken up as one of the principals.

At the following assizes, held at Maidstone, Collington and Stone were brought to trial ; when the former turned his back on the court, with an air of such utter contempt, that the judge declared he had never been witness to such a scene of insolence.

The prisoners being convicted on the fullest evidence, were carried back to Canterbury, where the debtors commiserated their unhappy circumstances ; but Collington made a jest of his situation, and swore he did not regard it, as he was certain of obtaining the royal mercy.

This hardened villain likewise encouraged Stone to hope for mercy, as he could get him included in the pardon ; but the event proved how much he was mistaken in his conjecture.

Collington's wife, coming to visit him, was so affected with grief, as to be unable to speak to him for a considerable time ; yet he was so hardened, as not to feel for her situation ; but bade her not give herself the least concern, as he was certain of getting a reprieve ; and hoped to live to revenge himself on his enemies, even if he should be transported.

He frequently expressed himself in the most revengeful terms against his prosecutors ; and appeared, in other respects, so destitute of all the feelings of humanity, that his conduct surprised every one who was witness to it. Thus he spent his time without preparing for the sentence that he was to suffer, and still boasting to his visitors, that the rank of life he held as a gentleman would secure him a reprieve.

Luckhurst, who had been evidence against him, being apprehended for committing a robbery on the highway, Collington thought this a fair opportunity to solicit a reprieve ; for which purpose he dispatched an express to the Duke of Newcastle ; but the answer he received was, that he must not expect any favour, for that the gentlemen of the county had exerted their influence, that the law might be permitted to take its course.

On being informed that the warrant for his execution was arrived, his boasted courage left him for a short time ; but recollecting himself, he enquired if Stone was included in the warrant, and being answered in the affirmative, said he lamented his situation more than his own. After this he soon recovered his spirits, and still flattered himself with the hope of being pardoned.

The day preceding his execution, he was visited by his wife and several relations, who advised him to make a serious preparation for his approaching death ; and asked him where he would be buried. This question inflamed all his passions, so that he swore he would not be hanged : but soon afterwards, calling for a glass of

wine, he drank it, saying, " Let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die."

On the following day Collington was conveyed to the place of execution in a mourning coach, and Stone in a cart ; and both of them being placed under the gallows, Collington prayed with the minister, but declined making any speech to the surrounding multitude.

THE MELANCHOLY CASE OF  
RICHARD COLEMAN,

*Who was executed on Kennington Common, in Surrey,  
April 12, 1749, on a Charge of Murder, of which  
he was innocent.*

WE take this opportunity of again cautioning prosecutors against being too positive in their identity of the accused ; and previous to entering upon this melancholy case, we beg leave to present our readers with another instance of a like fatal mistake.

At the assizes for Surrey, held at Kingston, on the 2d of August, 1740, Bartholomew Greenwood, Esq. a gentleman of good private estate, and rider to the first troop of horse-guards, a place of about 200*l.* a year in value, was indicted for robbing — Wheatley, Esq. in a field near Camberwell, at half past nine, on the 5th of June, then last past.

Mr. Wheatley positively swore, that the prisoner, Mr. Greenwood, was the identical man by whom he was robbed, at the time and place above-mentioned. From the opinions which had been previously formed on the improbability of a gentleman of Mr. Greenwood's respectability being base enough to turn footpad, the trial engaged the general attention of the county. The prosecutor called a number of witnesses as to his fortune and high character, which they testified in an eminent degree

Mr. Greenwood being called upon for his defence, set up an alibi ; to substantiate which he called a number of witnesses of equal credibility, who proved that he was in a different place at the time the robbery was sworn to have been committed. They gave a distinct detail, and adduced many corroborating circumstances, how and where he passed the day, until eleven at night. In addition to this, he called gentlemen of the first rank, and the officers of the regiment in which he served, in support of his character ; which they completely established as a man of worth and probity.

The jury were convinced that the prosecutor had mistaken the prisoner, and instantly acquitted him.

Richard Coleman was indicted at the assizes held at Kingston, in Surrey, in March 1749, for the murder of Sarah Green, on the 23d of July preceding ; when he was capitally convicted.

Mr. Coleman had received a decent education, and was clerk to a brewer at the time the affair happened which cost him his life ; and had a wife and several children who were reduced to accept the bounty of the parish, in consequence of his conviction.

The murdered person was Sarah Green, who, having been with some acquaintance to a bean-feast in Kennington-lane, staid to a late hour, and on her return towards Southwark, she met with three men, who had the appearance of brewers' servants, two of whom used her in so inhuman a manner as will bear no description.

Such was the ill-treatment she had received, that it was two-o'clock in the morning before she was able to reach her lodgings, and on the following day was so ill, that she informed several people how she had been treated : on which she was sent to St. Thomas's hospital.

While in the hospital she declared that the clerk in Taylor's (then Berry's) brewhouse, was one of the parties who had treated her in such an infamous manner ; and it was supposed that Coleman was the person to whom she alluded.

Two days after the shocking transaction had happened, Coleman and one Daniel Trotman happened to call at

the Queen's-head alehouse in Bandy-leg-walk, when the latter was perfectly sober, but the former in a state of intoxication. Having called for some rum and water, Coleman was stirring it with a spoon, when a stranger asked him what he had done with the pig? meaning a pig that had been lately stole in the neighbourhood. Coleman, unconscious of guilt, and conceiving himself affronted by such an impertinent question, said, "D—n the pig, what is it to me?"

The other, who seems to have had an intention to ensnare him, asked him if he did not know Kennington-lane? Coleman answered that he did, and added, "D—n ye, what of that?" The other then asked him if he knew the woman that had been so cruelly treated in Kennington-lane? Coleman replied, "Yes," and again said, "D—n ye, what of that?" The other man asked, "Was not you one of the parties concerned in that affair?" Coleman, who, as we have said, was intoxicated, and had no suspicion of design, replied, "If I had, you dog, what then?" and threw at him the spoon with which he was stirring the liquor. A violent quarrel ensued; but at length Coleman went away with Trotman.

On the following day, Coleman calling at the Queen's-head above-mentioned, the landlord informed him how imprudently he had acted the preceding day. Coleman, who had been too drunk to remember what had passed, asked if he had offended any person; on which the landlord informed him of what had happened: but the other, still conscious of his innocence, paid no regard to what he said.

On the 29th of August, Daniel Trotman and another man went before Mr. Clarke, a magistrate in the Borough, and charged Coleman on suspicion of having violently assaulted, and cruelly treated, Sarah Green in the Parsonage-walk, near Newington Church, in Surrey.

The magistrate, who does not seem to have supposed that Coleman was guilty, sent for him, and hired a man to attend him to the hospital where the wounded woman lay: and a person pointing out Coleman, asked if he was one of the persons who had used her so cruelly. She

said, she believed he was ; but as she declined to swear positively to his having any concern in the affair, justice Clarke admitted to bail.

Some time afterwards, Coleman was again taken before the magistrate, when nothing positive being sworn against him, the justice would have absolutely discharged him ; but Mr. Wynne, the master of the injured girl, requesting that he might once more be taken to see her, a time was fixed for that purpose, and the justice took Coleman's word for his appearance.

The accused party came punctually to his time, bringing with him the landlord of an alchouse where Sarah Green had drunk on the night of the affair, with the three men who really injured her : and this publican, and other people, declared on oath that Coleman was not one of the parties.

On the following day, justice Clarke went to the hospital, to take the examination of the woman on oath. Having asked her if Coleman was one of the men who had injured her, she said she could not tell, as it was dark at the time ; but Coleman being called in, an oath was administered to her, when she swore that he was one of the three men that abused her.

Notwithstanding this oath, the justice, who thought the poor girl not in her right senses, and was convinced in his own mind of the innocence of Coleman, permitted him to depart on his promise of bringing bail the following day to answer the complaint at the next assizes for Surrey ; and he brought his bail, and gave security accordingly.

Sarah Green dying in the hospital, the coroner's jury sat to enquire into the cause of her death ; and having found a verdict of wilful murder against Richard Coleman, and two persons then unknown, a warrant was issued to take Coleman into custody.

Though this man was conscious of his innocence, yet such were his terrors at the idea of going to prison on such a charge, that he absconded, and secreted himself at Pinner, near Harrow on the Hill.

King George the Second being then at Hanover, a

proclamation was issued by the lords of the regency, offering a reward of 50*l.* for the apprehension of the supposed offender; and to this the parish of St. Saviour, Southwark, added a reward of 20*l.*

Coleman read the advertisement for his apprehension in the Gazette; but was still so thoughtless as to conceal himself; though perhaps an immediate surrender would have been deemed the strongest testimony of his innocence. However, to assert his innocence, he caused the following advertisement to be printed in the newspaper:

“I, Richard Coleman, seeing myself advertised in the Gazette, as absconding on account of the murder of Sarah Green, knowing myself not any way culpable, do assert that I have not absconded from justice; but will willingly and readily appear at the next assizes, knowing that my innocence will acquit me.”

Strict search being made after him, he was apprehended at Pinner, on the 22d of November, and lodged in Newgate, whence he was removed to the New Gaol, Southwark, till the time of the assizes, at Kingston, in Surrey; when his conviction arose principally from the evidence of Trotman, and the declaration of the dying woman.

Some persons positively swore that he was in another place at the time the fact was committed; but their evidence was not credited by the jury, though it will be seen, in a subsequent part of this work, that it would have been happy if a proper attention had been paid to it.

After conviction, Coleman behaved like one who was conscious of being innocent, and who had no fear of death.

He was attended at the place of execution by the Rev. Mr. Wilson, to whom he delivered a paper, in which he declared, in the most solemn and explicit manner, that he was altogether innocent of the crime alleged against him. He died with great resignation; and lamented only that he should leave a wife and two children in distress.

The subsequent trial of those who actually perpetrated the murder, proved this unhappy man's innocence, and will be related in another part of this work.

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### T. KINGSMILL, FAIRALL, AND PERIN,

[Three of the Thirty Smugglers, who broke open the Custom-house at Pool.]

*Executed at Tyburn, April 26, 1749,*

WE have never had occasion to notice a more daring crime than that for which these men were executed ; nor shall we find another instance of the same offence, in the course of our whole history.

The practice of smuggling is now very trifling compared with what it was in the middle of the last century ; when it was carried on to such an alarming extent, by large bodies of associated villains, who threatened all who opposed them with death, that the inhabitants of the towns and villages on the coasts of Hampshire, Kent, Essex, and Sussex, lived in constant dread of their depredations and cruelty.

Kingsmill was a native of Goodhuist in Kent, and passed some part of his life as a husbandman ; but, having associated with the smugglers, he made no scruple of entering into the most hazardous enterprises ; and, became so distinguished for his courageous, or rather ferocious disposition, that he was chosen captain of the gang : an honour of which he was so proud, that he sought every opportunity of exhibiting specimens of his courage, and put himself foremost in every service of danger.

Fairall was a native of Horsendown-green, in Kent, and the son of poor parents, who were unable either to educate him, or to give him any regular employment, by which he might obtain a livelihood. He began to associate with the smugglers while quite a boy, and was

frequently employed by them to hold their horses; and, when he grew up to man's estate, he was admitted as one of the fraternity. He was so remarkable for his brutal courage, that it was not thought safe to offend him.

Having been taken into custody, and lodged in the New Gaol, Southwark, he made his escape from thence, and vowed vengeance against the magistrate who had granted the warrant for his apprehension: and, in consequence of which, he, with Kingsmill and others of the gang, laid wait for the gentleman one morning when he left his house; but not meeting with him then, they hid themselves under his park wall, till his usual time of returning in the evening: but it happened that, on his return, he heard the voices of men, and the night being very dark, he turned his horse and went into his house by a private door, by which he avoided the dangerous snare that was laid for him,

Perin was a native of Chichester in Sussex. Having served his time to a carpenter, he practised some years as a master, and was successful in trade; but a stroke of the palsy depriving him of the use of his right hand, he became connected with the smugglers, on whose behalf he used to sail to the coast of France, and purchase goods, which he brought to England; and, in this capacity, he proved very serviceable to the gang.

It is evident that these men must have greatly injured the revenue and the fair trader; for they had a number of warehouses in different parts of Sussex, for the concealment of their goods; and kept not less than fifty horses, some of which they sent loaded to London, and others to the fairs round the country.

Perin, being in France in the year 1747, bought a large quantity of goods, which he stowed on board a cutter, with a view of landing them on the coast of Sussex; but, as several smuggling vessels were expected at this juncture, Captain Johnson, who commanded a cutter in the government's service, received orders to sail in search of them. In consequence of which he sailed from Poole, and took the smuggling cutter on the

following day ; but Perin and his accomplices escaped, by taking to their boat. Captain Johnson found the cargo to consist of brandy and tea to a very large amount, which he carried safe into the harbour of Poole.

Soon after this transaction, which happened in the month of September, the whole body of smugglers assembled in Charlton-Park, to consult if there was any possibility of recovering the goods of which they had thus been deprived. After many schemes had been proposed and rejected, Perin recommended that they should go in a body, armed, and break open the custom-house at Poole ; and this proposal being acceded to, a paper was drawn up, by way of bond, that they should support each other ; and this was signed by all the parties.

This agreement, which was filled with dreadful curses on each other, in case of failure to execute it, was signed on the 6th of October : and, having provided themselves with swords and fire-arms, they met on the following day ; and, having concealed themselves in a wood till the evening, they proceeded towards Poole, where they arrived about eleven at night.

As soon as they got thither, they sent Willis and Stringer, two of the gang, to observe if there were any persons watching near the custom-house. Willis soon came back, and informed them that he thought it would not be safe to make the attempt, as a sloop of war lay opposite the quay, so that she could point her guns against the door of the custom-house. On this the body of the smugglers were for desisting from the enterprise : when Kingsmill and Fairall addressed them, saying, " If you will not do it, we will do it ourselves ;" but these words were no sooner spoken, than Stringer came back, and told them that it would be impossible for the sloop to bring her guns to bear, on account of the ebb-tide.

Animated by this intelligence, they rode to the sea-coast, where Perin and another of the gang took care of their horses, while the main body of them went back to the custom-house : in their way to which, they met with a boy, whom they took with them, to prevent his alarming the inhabitants.

Having forced the door open with hatchets and other instruments, they carried off the smuggled goods, with which they loaded their horses; and, after travelling all night, stopped in the morning at a place named Fording's-bridge.

The number of smugglers were thirty, and their horses thirty-one. Continuing their journey to a place named Brook, they divided the booty into equal shares, and then departed, each to his own house.

This daring transaction being represented to the secretary of state, King George the Second gave orders for issuing a proclamation with a reward for the apprehension of the offenders; but it was a considerable time before any of them were taken into custody.

At length two of the smugglers, who had been evidences against those hanged at Chichester, gave intelligence of the usual place of meeting of the others; in consequence of which, Fairall, Kingsmill, Perin, and another named Glover, were taken into custody, and conducted to Newgate.

When they were brought to trial, the evidences, whose names were Raise and Steel, confirmed the particulars which we have above recited; in consequence of which the prisoners, who could not disprove the testimony, were capitally convicted, and received sentence of death; but the jury recommended Glover as an object of the royal clemency.

Fairall behaved most insolently on his trial; and threatened one of the witnesses who swore against him. After conviction, Glover exhibited every proof of penitence; but the rest were totally hardened in their guilt, and insisted that they had not been guilty of any robbery, because they only took goods that had once belonged to them.

Orders were given that Fairall and Kingsmill should be hung in chains; but it was permitted that the body of Perin should be delivered to his friends: and the latter lamenting the fate of his associates, Fairall said, "We shall be hanging up in the sweet air, when you are rot-

ting in your grave ;” so hardened and unfeeling was the heart of this man.

Their friends being permitted to see them on the night before they suffered, a pardon was brought for Glover while they were in discourse together ; and, a few days afterwards, he obtained his liberty. Fairall kept smoking with his acquaintances, till he was ordered by the keeper to retire to his cell ; a circumstance that much enraged him ; on which he exclaimed, “ Why in such a hurry ? cannot you let me stay a little longer with my friends ?— I shall not be able to drink with them to-morrow night.”

On the following day, Perin was carried to the place of execution, in a mourning-coach ; and the two others in a cart, with a party of horse and foot-guards. The behaviour of Fairall and Kingsmill was remarkably undaunted ; but they all joined in devotion with the ordinary of Newgate, when they came to the fatal tree.

The bodies of Kingsmill and Fairall were hung in chains in the county of Kent.

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**SAMUEL COUCHMAN AND JOHN MORGAN,  
LIEUTENANTS OF MARINES, THOMAS KNIGHT,  
CARPENTER, AND OTHERS,**

[Part of the Crew of His Majesty's Ship *Chesterfield*.]

*Shot at Portsmouth, for Mutiny, July 14, 1749.*

THE *Chesterfield* man of war, under the command of Captain O'Brian Dudley, was stationed off Cape Coast Castle, on the coast of Africa, when a dangerous mutiny broke out among the crew, of which the above-named officers were the leaders. They were charged with “ exciting and encouraging mutiny, and running away with His Majesty's ship *Chesterfield*, on the 10th day of October, 1748, from the coast of Africa, leaving their captain, two lieutenants, with other officers, and some seamen, on shore.”

Hereupon a court-martial was held on board his majesty's ship *Invincible*, of which Sir Edward Hawke, of glorious memory, was president.

The first evidence called in support of the prosecution, was Mr. Gasterin, the late boatswain of the *Chesterfield*, who deposed, that on the 15th of October, 1748, capt. Dudley being then on shore at Cape Coast Castle, sent off his barge to Mr. Couchman, ordering him to send the cutter on shore with the boatswain of the ship to see the tents struck on shore, and to bring every thing belonging to the ship on board that night; but Couchman directly ordered the barge to be hoisted in, and the boatswain to turn all the hands on the quarter-deck, where Couchman, coming from his cabin with a drawn sword, said, "Here I am, G—d d—n me. I will stand by you, while I have a drop of blood in my body." He was accompanied by John Morgan, the lieutenant of marines, Thomas Knight the carpenter, his mate John Place (a principal actor), and about thirty seamen with cutlasses.—They then gave three huzzas, and threw their hats overboard, damming old hats, they would soon get new.

Couchman then sent for the boatswain, to know if he would stand by him, and go with him: he replied, "No;" and said, "For God's sake, Sir, be ruled by reason, and consider what you are about." Couchman then threatened to put him in irons if he did not join with him; but the boatswain told him he never would be in such piratical designs; he was then ordered into custody, and two centinels put over him. Couchman soon after sent for Gillham, the mate of the ship, and made the same speech to him, who desired to know where he was bound, and upon what account? He replied, "To take, burn, and sink, and settle a colony in the East Indies." There were five or six more put in custody with the boatswain, in the same place, and were confined only five or six hours; for, in the middle of the night, after their confinement, Couchman sent for them in the great cabin, and desired them to sit and drink punch, and then dismissed them. The next day the boatswain was invited to dinner by the new commander, who began to rail

against captain Dudley, and asked him and one of the mates what they thought of the affair? the boatswain replied, he thought it rank piracy; on which Couchman said, "What I have done, I cannot now go from; I was forced to it by the ship's company." The boatswain then told him, "that would be no sanction for his running away with the king's ship." The carpenter and lieutenant then proposed their signing a paper, to which the boatswain replied, "He never would, and would sooner suffer death:" the mate said the same. When the boatswain came out of the great cabin, he went to the gunner's cabin, who was then sick, and unable to come out of it, but was of great use, by his prudent advice and assistance; for, after the boatswain had told him that Couchman's party had taken possession of all the arms he said that he could furnish him with twenty pistols. By this time Mr. Fraser and Mr. Gilham, mates of the ship, the gunner's mate, and Yeoman, the cockswain of the barge, were come to them when the boatswain communicated his design of recovering the ship that very night. To this they all agreed, with the greatest resolution.

It began then to be very dark, being 10 *p. m.* when the boatswain went to sound the ship's company; and on the fore-castle there were about thirty men; he then, in a plain but prudent manner, disclosed the secret, and soon convinced them both of the facility and necessity of putting his scheme immediately in practice; accordingly, the first step was, to get up all the irons or bilboes on the fore-castle; he then sent for the twenty pistols, which were all loaded: he next ordered three men upon the grand magazine, and two to that abaft; and the remainder, who had no pistols, to stay by the bilboes, and secure as many prisoners as he should send. This disposition being made, he went directly down on the deck, where he divided his small company into two parties; and one going down the main, the other the fore-hatch-way, they soon secured eleven or twelve of the ring-leaders, and sent them up to the fore-castle without the least noise. The two parties then joined, and went

directly to the great cabin, where they secured Couchman, and the lieutenant of marines, with the carpenter, whom they immediately confined in different parts of the ship.

Thus was the ship bravely rescued by the intrepidity and prudence of a few honest men, after she had been about thirty hours in the possession of a poor unhappy man, who appears to have been utterly unfit for so daring an enterprize, and in his unfortunate condition very penitent.

The boatswain (Roger Winket) was afterwards rewarded with three hundred pounds a-year, as master-attendant of Woolwich yard.

John Place was charged with being very active in the mutiny. The gunner deposed, that the said Place came to him as he lay sick in his cabin, with a drawn cutlass and a cocked pistol, and swore that he would murder him, if he did not deliver to him the key of the magazine. He made no defence, but submitted to the mercy of the court.

John Place, after sentence, wrote letters of religious exhortation to his brothers in affliction.—His letter to Mr. Couchman upbraids him with having been the murderer of those who were condemned with him, by first seducing them from their duty : exhorts him not to attempt to screen himself by imputing his guilt to others : and concludes, “ I freely forgive you, though you are the cause of my death, as you know full well ; and I would have you act with a brave resignation to the will of God ; and not, by mean hopes of life, lose an opportunity to secure a blessed eternity.—Despise life, as I do, with God’s assistance, and die like a man.”

#### ANSWER.

“ MR. PLACE,

YOU will die like a villain.—S. COUCHMAN.”

The Court found the following guilty, who were executed in the manner hereafter mentioned :

On the 14th July, Samuel Couchman, first lieutenant of marines, shot.

July 14, John Morgan, second-lieutenant of marines, shot.

July 24, Thomas Knight, carpenter.  
John Place, carpenter's mate,  
John Meeks, seaman,  
William Anderson, seaman,  
John Reed, quarter-master,  
Thomas Scott, seaman, hanged.

Captain Dudley was tried for "Neglect of duty, in keeping a number of his officers on shore, at Cape Coast Castle, when the ship was seized," and acquitted.

Others of the ship's company, also tried for mutiny, were acquitted.

On the 26th of June, 1749, James Colvin, late boatswain's mate, on board the Richmond man of war, was hanged at Portsmouth, for mutiny.

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### JOHN MILLS,

[Another of the cruel Gang of Smugglers lately mentioned.]

*Executed on Slendon Common, Sussex, Aug. 12, 1749,  
for Murder.*

THIS villain, whose father and brother were both executed, was concerned in the murder of the custom-house officers, and in breaking open the custom-house; but escaped for a short time the hand of justice.

Travelling with some associates over Hind Heath, he saw the judges on their road to Chichester, to try the murderers of Chater and Galley, on which young Mills proposed to rob them; but the other parties refused to have any concern in such an affair.

Soon after his father, brother, and their accomplices were hanged, Mills thought of going to Bristol, with a view of embarking for France; and, having hinted his intentions to some others, they resolved to accompany him, and stopping at a house on the road, they met with one Richard Hawkins, whom they asked to go with them; but the poor fellow hesitating, they put him on horseback



*The murder of two Customs-House Officers by a gang of 'Boroughs'.*



behind Mills, and carried him to the Dog and Partridge on Slendon Common, which was kept by John Reynolds.

They had not been long in the house, when complaint was made that two bags of tea had been stolen, and Hawkins was charged with the robbery. He steadily denied any knowledge of the affair; but this not satisfying the villains, they obliged him to pull off his clothes, and, having likewise stripped themselves, they began to whip him with the most unrelenting barbarity; and Curtis, one of the gang said he did know of the robbery, and if he would not confess, he would whip him till he did; for he had whipped many a rogue, and washed his hands in his blood.

These blood-thirsty villains continued whipping the poor wretch till their breath was almost exhausted; while he begged them to spare his life, on account of his wife and child. Hawkins drawing up his legs, to defend himself in some measure from their blows, they kicked him on the groin in a manner too shocking to be described: continually asking him what was become of the tea. At length the unfortunate man mentioned something of his father and brother; on which Mills and one Curtis said they would go and fetch them; but Hawkins expired soon after they had left the house.

Rowland, one of the accomplices, now locked the door, and putting the key in his pocket, he and Thomas Winter (who was afterwards admitted evidence) went out to meet Curtis and Mills, whom they saw riding up a lane leading from an adjacent village, having each a man behind him. Winter desiring to speak with his companions the other men stood at a distance, while he asked Curtis what he meant to do with them, and he said to confront them with Hawkins.

Winter now said that Hawkins was dead, and begged that no more mischief might be done; but Curtis replied, "By G--- we will go through it now;" but at length they permitted them to go home, saying, that when they were wanted they should be sent for.

The murderers now coming back to the public-house, Reynolds said, "You have ruined me;" but Curtis

replied that he would make him amends. Having consulted how they should dispose of the body, it was proposed to throw it into a well in an adjacent park; but this being objected to, they carried it twelve miles, and, having tied stones to it, in order to sink it, they threw it into a pond in Parham Park, belonging to sir Cecil Bishop; and in this place it lay more than two months before it was discovered.

This horrid and unprovoked murder gave rise to a royal proclamation, in which a pardon was offered to any persons, even outlawed smugglers, except those who had been guilty of murder, or concerned in breaking open the custom-house at Poole, on the conditions of discovering the persons who had murdered Hawkins, particularly Mills, who was charged with having had a concern in this horrid transaction.

Hereupon William Pring, an outlawed smuggler, who had not any share in either of the crimes excepted in the proclamation, went to the secretary of state and informed him that he would find Mills, if he could be ascertained of his own pardon; and added, that he believed he was either at Bath or Bristol.

Being assured that he need not doubt of the pardon, he set out for Bristol, where he found Mills, and with him Thomas and Lawrence Kemp, brothers, the former of whom had broke out of Newgate, and the other was outlawed by proclamation. Having consulted on their desperate circumstances, Pring offered them a retreat at his house near Beckenham, in Kent, whence they might make excursions, and commit robberies on the highway.

Pleased with this proposal, they set out with Pring, and arrived in safety at his house, where they had not been long, before he pretended that his horse being an indifferent one, and theirs remarkably good, he would go and procure another, and then they would proceed on the intended expeditions.

Thus saying, he set out, and they agreed to wait for his return; but instead of going to procure a horse, he went to the house of Mr. Rackster, an officer of the excise at Horsham, who taking with him seven or eight

armed men, went to Beckenham at night, where they found Mills and the two brothers Kemp just going to supper on a breast of veal. They immediately secured the brothers, by tying their arms; but Mills, making resistance, was cut with a hanger before he would submit.

The offenders being taken were conducted to the county gaol for Sussex; and, being secured till the assizes, were removed to East Grinstead, when the brothers Kemp were tried for highway robberies, convicted, sentenced, and executed.

Mills being tried for the Murder of Hawkins was capitally convicted, received sentence of death, and to be hung in chains near the place where the murder was committed.

After conviction he mentioned several robberies in which he had been concerned, but refused to tell the names of any of his accomplices; declaring, that he thought he should merit damnation, if he made any discoveries by means of which any of his companions might be apprehended and convicted.

The country being at that time filled with smugglers, a rescue was feared; wherefore he was conducted to the place of execution by a guard of soldiers; and, when there, prayed with a clergyman, confessed that he had led a bad life, acknowledged the murder of Hawkins, desired that all young people would take warning by his untimely end, humbly implored the forgiveness of God, and professed to die in charity with all mankind.

After execution he was hung in chains on Stendon Common.

THOMAS NEALE AND WILLIAM BOWEN,  
HIGHWAYMEN.

*The former a most hardened Sinner, who died cursing  
the Spectators of his Execution, August 12, 1749.*

NEALE was one of the many seamen who were discharged on the proclamation of peace: having received his wages, he came to London, where he soon wasted his money in the most dissipated manner, and in the worst of company, and then had recourse to the dangerous practices of a footpad-robber.

On one occasion, he stole a tankard from an inn in Hertfordshire, for which he was apprehended, and lodged in the county-gaol, and being tried at the next assizes, was capitally convicted, but obtained a pardon on condition of transporting himself for seven years, through the interest of the late Duke of Cumberland.

Having given bail thus to transport himself, he entertained no thought of fulfilling the contract: but, immediately associated with Bowen and other villains, and committed several robberies near London, particularly at Stepney and Mile End.

William Bowen was a native of Londonderry, in Ireland. His parents, who kept an inn, and lived respectably, proposed that he should succeed them in their business; but an attachment to bad company led him astray from the paths of duty.

His father, dying just before he came of age, left him the inn, on condition of his supporting his mother, a brother, and two young sisters; but the young man, deaf to every prudent consideration, associated with people whose circumstances were much superior to his own, to the neglect of that business which would have supported the family.

Aware of the decay of his trade, and the consequent ruin that stared him in the face, he came over to London with all the cash he could secure, and fell in company

with people who assisted him to spend his money ; and, when that was gone, he entered on board a ship as a common sailor.

The seamen having received their wages, Bowen got into company with his old associates and some women of ill-fame, with whom he spent the last shilling, and then had recourse to robbery for his support.

One of Bowen's companions being apprehended for picking pockets, he and others joined to rescue him, as the peace-officers were conveying him to Newgate in a coach. The public being alarmed by this daring rescue, Bowen did not think it safe to stay in London ; and having heard that his brother, then a seaman, was at Liverpool, went thither in search of him ; but on his arrival, he learnt that having received a large sum as prize-money, he had sailed to see his friends in Ireland.

Bowen immediately wrote to Londonderry, but, not having a letter in return, he came to the metropolis in the most distressed circumstances ; and, going to a house where he had formerly lodged, he was informed that Neale had been to enquire for him ; and on the following day Neale came to see him, in company with a man named Vincent.

After drinking together, Neale said to Bowen, " Come and take a ride with me." Bowen said he had no money ; but the other told him that would soon be procured. On this Neale went out to borrow him a pair of boots ; while Bowen went with Vincent to his lodgings, where the latter gave him a hanger and a pair of pistols, which Bowen concealed under a great coat, and then all the parties met at an alchouse in Southwark, whence they went to an inn, and hired horses, on pretence of going to Gravesend ; instead of which they went towards Kingston, where Vincent had a relation who belonged to the Oxford Blues.

On their way they purchased a whip for Bowen, and loaded their pistols. On their arrival at Kingston, they went to a public-house ; and, sending for Vincent's kinsman, they all dined together, and drank themselves into a state of perfect intoxication.

Having paid their reckoning, they mounted their horses, and meeting a gentleman named Ryley, Bowen pulled him from his horse, and in the same instant quitted his own. Mr. Ryley ran off; but Bowen followed him, threw him down, knecled on his breast, and threatened him with instant destruction if he did not quietly submit. Having robbed him of his watch and money, he bade him run after his horse, which had quitted the place on Neale's whipping him. During this robbery, Vincent watched, lest any person should come to interrupt them.

The highwaymen now rode towards London, and, when they came near Wandsworth, they determined to go to Fulham; and thence to town by the way of Hyde Park Corner. Having divided the booty (except a thirty-six shilling piece, which Bowen secreted) at the Grey-Hound-Inn, near Piccadilly, they supped and slept at that house.

In the morning they told the landlord that they wanted to go towards Highgate; but were not well acquainted with the road. As they had been good customers, the landlord begged to treat them with half a pint of rum, and then went a little way with them, to shew them the nearest road.

Having arrived at Highgate, they drank at that place, and then determined to proceed to Barnet, at which place they put up their horses, and called for rum and water, of which they swallowed such quantities, that Vincent and Bowen fell fast asleep.

In the mean time Neale endeavoured to secrete a silver pint mug; but being detected in the attempt, he was taken before a magistrate, and loaded pistols being found on him, orders were given that his companions should likewise be taken into custody; in consequence of which they were all lodged in the county-gaol.

At the next assizes an order was made for their discharge (as nothing appeared against them), on their giving security for their good behaviour. For this purpose they wrote to London to procure bail; but, Mr. Ryley hearing that three men of doubtful character were in the gaol of Hertford, went thither, and immediately

knew that they were the parties by whom he had been robbed.

Hereupon a detainer was lodged against them, and they were removed for trial at the Surrey assizes, previous to the holding of which Vincent was admitted an evidence for the crown. His testimony corroborating that of Mr. Ryley, Neale and Bowen were found guilty, and sentenced to die.

Being lodged in the New Gaol, Southwark, Bowen was taken ill, and continued so till the time of his execution. He behaved with some degree of resignation to his fate : but was violent in his exclamations against Vincent, on account of his turning evidence.

Neale evinced no concern on account of his unhappy situation ; but behaved in a manner more hardened than language can express. At the place of execution he paid no regard to the devotions ; but laughed at the populace while he played with the rope which was to put a period to his life. After the cap was drawn over his face, he put it up again, and addressed the people in the following shocking terms : “ I shall very soon see my lord Balmerino. He was a very good friend of mine : so that is what I had to say, and d--n you all together.” He then drew the cap over his eyes, and was launched into eternity.

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## BENJAMIN NEALE,

*Executed in Surrey, August 12, 1749, for Burglary.*

BENJAMIN Neale was a most hardened villain, and his fate exhibits a melancholy instance of the danger of mixing in dissolute company. He was the son of an apothecary and surgeon, at Extel, in Warwickshire, who having many children to provide for, apprenticed Benjamin to a baker, in a large business at Coventry.

During his apprenticeship his conduct was very reprehensible ; for he would frequently stay out whole

nights, and return to his master's house in the morning, in a state of intoxication.

With some difficulty he served to the end of his time, when several of the inhabitants of Coventry recommended it to his father, to put him into business, and promised to deal with him ; and the father enabled him to begin the world in a creditable manner. For a considerable time he had such success in business, that he became the principal baker in the place, and married the daughter of one of the aldermen, with whom he received a good fortune, and would soon have been a rich man, if he had paid a proper attention to his business. It was not long after he received his wife's fortune, when he began to give himself such airs of consequence, that he rendered himself disagreeable to his wife, and made the servants look on him as a perfect tyrant.

To this behaviour succeeded a neglect of his business, which visibly declined, while he frequented cock-pits and horse-races. It was in vain that his father and his wife remonstrated on the impropriety of this conduct, and represented how inconsistent it was with the life of a tradesman : he would not listen to their remonstrances, and continued these courses till his character was lost, and he was reduced to labour as a journeyman baker.

Unable to submit with decency to a fate which he had brought upon himself he wandered about the country, picking up a casual and doubtful subsistence. Returning one night to Coventry, he found his mother, his wife, and child, in company. He demanded money ; but they refusing to supply him, he threatened to murder them, and was proceeding to put his threats in execution, when their cries alarmed the neighbours, and prevented the perpetration of the deed ; but this affair had such an effect on his wife, that she was seized with a fever, which soon put a period to her life.

This disaster did not seem to make any impression on his mind, for he travelled soon after into Staffordshire, where he married a second wife, and then returned to Coventry ; but he privately sold off his effects, and left the poor woman in great distress.

It was not long after this when he commenced highwayman, and committed a variety of robberies on different roads; and at length became a house-breaker, which brought him to an ignominious end.

At Farnham, in Surrey, lived a gentleman of fortune, named Newton, at whose house Neale thought he might acquire a considerable booty; and, in pursuance of this plan, he broke into the house at four o'clock in the morning, and forcing open a bureau, he stole several bank-notes, an East-India bond, between fifty and sixty pounds in money, some medals of gold, and several valuable articles.

Mr. Newton no sooner discovered the robbery, than he sent off a messenger, with a letter to his brother in London, requesting that he would advertise the loss, and stop payment of the notes. When Neale had committed the robbery, he likewise proceeded towards London, and when he came to Brentford, offered some watermen three and sixpence to row him to town; but this they refused, and Neale had no sooner got into another boat, which was putting from the shore, than the messenger arrived at Brentford; and the watermen having entertained a suspicion of Neale, asked the man if he was in pursuit of a thief, and he replying in the affirmative, they pointed to the boat in which Neale was sitting.

On this the messenger hired another boat, and having overtaken him, found him wrapped up in a waterman's coat. The criminal being conducted before a magistrate, the stolen effects were found in his possession; on which he was ordered for commitment, and conveyed to Newgate the same day.

When the assizes for Surrey began, he was sent to Guildford, where he was capitally convicted, and sentenced to die. After conviction he shewed no signs of repentance; but his whole behaviour was such as might have been expected from one so hardened, and so totally improper for his situation, that even the keepers of the gaol were shocked at his insensibility; and advised him to reform his conduct.

## HUGH DAWSON AND JOHN GAMMELL,

*Executed on Kennington Common, August 22, 1749.*

As we have so frequently commented on the bad effects of idleness, extravagance, and drunkenness, in bringing such numbers to the gallows, we pass over many cases without observation, that we may avoid a tedious and unnecessary repetition.

Dawson was an Irishman, and born of respectable parents ; his father having been a bookseller in Londonderry. Gammel was a Scotchman of Greenock, and both were lazy worthless fellows.

The father of Dawson, finding his son would settle to no business in his own country, sent him to sea. After the first voyage he remained some time at home, and did not seem to entertain any farther thoughts of going to sea ; but falling in love with a young woman in the neighbourhood, she promised him marriage, but advised him to follow his former occupation some time longer.

In consequence of this advice, he went again to sea, and, on his return from each voyage, visited his favourite girl ; but at length it was discovered by her parents that she was pregnant by her lover. Alarmed by this circumstance, they proposed to Dawson's father to give him a fortune proportioned to what they would bestow on their girl ; but this the old man obstinately refused, though the son earnestly entreated him to accede to the proposal.

Hereupon young Dawson left his parents, swore he would never again return home, and went once more to sea. Having made some voyages, the vessel in which he sailed put into the harbour of Sandwich ; on which Dawson resolved to quit a sea-faring life, and married a girl of fortune, who bore him two children, which were left to the care of her relations at her death, which happened six years after her marriage. After this event, Dawson went again to sea, and was in several naval engagements. When his ship was paid off he went to Bristol, where he was arrested for a debt he had con-

tracted. At this period he heard of the death of his father, and that his mother's affection for him was in no degree diminished ; on which he wrote her an account of his situation, and she sent him fifty pounds, which relieved him from his embarrassments.

Having procured his liberty, he went to London, and marrying the widow of a seaman, who possessed some money, they lived comfortably a considerable time, till he became connected with dissolute companions, and commenced that line of conduct which led to his ruin.

Gammell, who had been a ship-mate with Dawson, was one of these companions, and being now out of employment, advised him to go on the highway. He hesitated for some time, but having drank freely, his resolution failed him, and he agreed to the fatal proposal.

These accomplices dressed themselves as sailors, and concealing bludgeons under their jackets, knocked down the persons they intended to rob, and stripped them of their effects.

The robbery which cost them their lives was committed near New-cross turnpike, on a gentleman named Outridge, from whom they took his money and watch, and treated him with great barbarity. Being pursued by some people whom Mr. Outridge informed of the robbery, Dawson was overtaken and confined ; and having given information where Gammell lodged, he likewise was apprehended ; and both of them being conveyed to the New Gaol, Southwark, they recriminated each other.

On the approach of the assizes for Surrey, the prisoners were carried to Croydon, where they were both tried and capitally convicted. After passing sentence, Dawson was visited by a Roman catholic priest, who intimated that he had heard he was of the Romish religion ; but the other said he would die in the protestant faith, in which he had been educated : but notwithstanding this declaration, and his regular attendance on the forms of the protestant mode, there was reason to conclude that he was a catholic, from a paper that was found in his cell after his death.

On the night preceding the execution, he was visited by his wife, who had been sitting some time with him, when the turnkey came, and intimated that he must retire; on which he refused to go, and knocked the fellow down; but some other keepers coming in, he was secured.

His wife would now have taken a final leave of him; and he said, if she did not depart, he would murder her.

As the keepers were conducting him through the court-yard to his cell, he called to the other prisoners, saying, "Hollo! my boys! Dawson is to be hanged to-morrow."

The prisoners were conveyed to the place of execution in the same cart; and when there, Dawson expressed his hope of salvation through the merits of Jesus Christ, and declared he died in charity with all men. Gammell addressed the surrounding multitude, particularly hoping that his brother seamen would avoid the commission of such crimes as led to his deplorable end. He hoped forgiveness from all whom he had injured, and acknowledged that he fell a victim to the equity of the laws.

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## ROBERT COX,

[Late Captain's Clerk of the Royal George Man of War.]

*Executed at Winchester, September 1, 1749, for  
forging Seamen's Tickets.*

THIS man was tried on several indictments: the first for stealing a certain obligation, called, "a seaman's ticket," the property of Benjamin Berry; the others for forgery, in indorsing the same.

When ships of war return from a foreign station, the crews are generally turned over to others, fit for service; and, upon these occasions, each man is delivered a warrant, signed by the principal officers, under whom he served, and which is called a seaman's ticket. This is negotiable, when indorsed, like a note of hand, or bill

of exchange ; but because the men should not be tempted to sell their tickets under price, instead of being put into their possession, they are sent with them to the captain of the ship to which they are turned over, and lodged in his hands till they are ordered to some other ship, and then these tickets are still sent with them.

The Glasgow man of war being laid up, part of her crew were turned over to several ships successively, and at length to the Royal George.

Soon after the peace was agreed upon, these men were of course discharged, and the tickets put into the hands of their proper owners ; but those of Mr. Berry and twelve other seamen were missing, and no account could be given of them. They immediately laid the fact before the lords of the Admiralty, by way of petition, who wrote to captain Harrison, to know the reason why the petitioners were refused their tickets. The captain answered the letter, but was unable to give any reason, or to say more than that they could not be found. Upon which the lords of the Admiralty thought fit to mulct the wages due to the men out of captain Harrison's pay, who now feeling, most sensibly, the ease of the poor sailors, made more immediate enquiry after the lost tickets, and accordingly advertised them, with a reward to any person who should make a discovery.

Mr. Cullen, who formerly kept the inn called the India Arms, at Gosport, deposed, that the identical tickets, so advertised, were deposited with him by the prisoner, Robert Cox, as security for twenty guineas, which he had lent him : and that, on the appearance of the advertisement, Cox came to him to beg he would take his bond for the twenty guineas, and give him up the tickets ; but the witness refused so to do, telling him if he came honestly by them, he might immediately sell them, and, out of what they brought, pay him the sum lent ; but that if he had not come honestly by them, it was fit the truth should be known. Upon this, Cox went his way, and the witness hastened to give information to captain Harrison.

Upon the trial of the first indictment, no proof could

be adduced that the prisoner stole the tickets, he was accordingly acquitted ; but the second was fatal to him ; as it was fully proved, that he forged the name of Berry to the tickets. He was found guilty, and received sentence of death, which he suffered at Winchester, September, 1749

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## CAPTAIN CLARKE,

OF THE ROYAL NAVY.

*Convicted and condemned to be hanged, for the Murder of Captain Innis, in a Duel, and pardoned, June 12, 1750.*

WE have before given our opinion of the destructive and wicked practice of duelling. The articles of war impose heavy penalties upon an officer giving or receiving a challenge ; and yet, he who refuses to receive one, or being what is termed insulted, and not challenging the aggressor, is deemed a coward, and “sent to Coventry.”\*

The captains Innis and Clarke were commanders under admiral Knowles, the first of the Warwick, and the latter of the Canterbury, line of battle ships, of sixty-four guns each, when he obtained a victory over a Spanish fleet of equal force, and took from them the Conquestadore, and run their vice-admiral on shore, where she blew up : the rest escaping under favour of the night. It was thought that, had the admiral availed himself of an opportunity which at one time presented, of bringing up his fleet to bear at once upon the enemy, the whole might have been taken.

The issue of this battle was, therefore, unsatisfactory to the nation, and the admiral was called to account for his conduct, before a court-martial, which was held on board the royal yacht the Charlotte, at Deptford.

\* This punishment is most humiliating to an officer, and consists in an unanimous determination of the other officers not to associate with him.

The opinion of the court being unfavourable to the admiral, caused a divided opinion among the officers. It did not, however, affect the personal bravery of that commander, but on the contrary, as it appeared in evidence, he displayed the greatest intrepidity, and exposed his person to imminent danger, after his ship was disabled ; but it appeared that in manœuvring, previous to the engagement, he had not availed himself of an advantage, and that he had commenced the action with four of his ships, when six might have been brought up. The court therefore determined, that he fell under the 14th and 23d articles of war, namely, the word " Negligence ;" for which they sentenced him to be reprimanded.

This sentence caused much ill blood among the officers. The admiral had already been called out twice in duels, with his captains, and had received more challenges of the same kind ; but government being apprised of the outrages, put a stop to them, by taking the challengers into custody.

Captain Clarke, it appears, had given evidence on the trial of the admiral, which displeased captain Innis to so great a degree, that he called him " a perjured rascal ;" and charged him with giving false evidence. This was certainly language, worse to be borne by an officer, than rankling wounds, or even death. Captain Clarke being apprised, that Innis in this way traduced and vilified him in all companies, gave him a verbal challenge, which the other accepted.

On the 12th of August, 1749, early in the morning, these gentlemen, attended by their seconds, met in Hyde-Park. The pistols of captain Clarke were screw-barrelled, and about seven inches long ; those of captain Innis were common pocket pistols, three inches and a half in the barrel. They were not more than five yards distant from each other, when they turned about, and captain Clarke fired, before captain Innis had levelled his pistol. The ball took effect in the breast, of which wound captain Innis expired at twelve o'clock the same night.

The coroner's jury found a verdict of wilful murder, against captain Clarke, on which he was apprehended, brought to trial at the Old Bailey, found guilty, and sentenced to death; but the king, in consideration of his services, and the bravery he displayed in fighting his ship under admiral Knowles, was pleased to grant him a free pardon.

There were other circumstances in this unfortunate rencontre, which were favourable to captain Clarke; for his firing on turning round, and his pistol being larger than that of captain Innis, was not deemed unfair by the sanguinary rules of duelling; for captain Innis might have provided himself with a large pair, had he pleased. But what pleaded powerfully in his behalf, was the expressions of the dying man, who acquitted and forgave him. When a soldier seized captain Clarke, the former asked the wounded man, what he should do with him, to which he faintly answered, "Set him at liberty, for what he has done was my own seeking."

On the 1st of June, 1750, being the last day of the sessions of the Old Bailey, captain Clarke, among the other convicts, was brought up to receive sentence of death, when he pleaded his majesty's pardon, which had been then lately sent him, and which being recorded, he was discharged.

It may not be without its use to repeat here what has been frequently mentioned before, namely, that the best method of preventing this crime, is always to punish the aggressor, that is, the person who occasioned the duel.

## JAMES COOPER,

*Executed on Kennington Common, for Murder, Aug.  
26, 1750, after numerous escapes from justice.*

THIS man was allowed to run a long race of villainy before he was overtaken by the arm of justice. He was guilty of several barbarous murders, and had committed many daring robberies, besides the crime for which he suffered; and what renders him still more criminal is his having had a fair chance, in the outset of life, of living by honest means.

He was the son of a butcher, at Lexton, in Essex; and his father, who had wholly neglected his education, employed him in his own business, when he was only ten years of age. Having lived with his father till he was twenty-two, he married, and opened a shop at Colchester, where he dealt largely as a butcher, and likewise became a cattle-jobber.

At the end of thirteen years Cooper, through neglect, found his losses so considerable, that he could no longer carry on business; and one of his creditors arresting him, he was thrown into the King's-bench prison; but, as his wife still carried on trade, he was enabled to purchase the rules. Soon after this, the marshal of the King's-bench died, and he was obliged to pay for the rules a second time.

He now sued for an allowance of the groats, and they were paid him for about a year; when, through neglect of payment he got out of prison, and took a shop in the Mint, Southwark, where he carried on his business with some success, his wife maintaining the family in the country.

At length he was arrested by another creditor, and waited two years for the benefit of an act of insolvency. On his going to Guildford, to take the benefit of the act, he found that the marshal had not inserted his name in the list with the names of the other prisoners: and, having informed his creditor of this circumstance, the

marshal was obliged to pay debt and costs ; the debtor was discharged, and the marshal fined one hundred pounds for his neglect.

Cooper having now obtained his liberty, and his wife dying about the same time, and leaving four children, he sent for them to London ; and not long afterwards, married a widow, who had an equal number of children.

He now unfortunately got acquainted with Duncalf and Burrell, the former a notorious thief, and the latter a soldier in the guards ; and these men advising him to commence robber, he fatally complied with their solicitations ; and the following is an account of a number of robberies which they committed.

Between Stockwell and Clapham they overtook two men, one of whom, speaking of the probability of being attacked by footpads, drew a knife, and swore he would kill any man who should presume to molest them. The parties all drank together on the road, and then proceeded towards London, when Cooper threw down the man that was armed with the knife, and took it from him, and then robbed him and his acquaintance of a watch, about twenty shillings, and their handkerchiefs.

Their next robbery was on Mr. James, a taylor, whom they stopped on the road to Dulwich, and took from him his watch and money. He gave an immediate alarm, which occasioned a pursuit ; but the thieves effected an escape. Two of the three robbers wearing soldiers' clothes, Mr. James presumed that they were of the guards, and going to the parade in St. James's park, he fixed on two soldiers as the parties who had robbed him.

As it happened that these men had been to Dulwich about the time that the robbery had been committed, they were sent to prison, and brought to trial ; but were acquitted.

The accomplices in iniquity being in waiting for prey near Bromley, Duncalf saw a gentleman riding along the road ; and, kneeling down, he seized the bridle, and obliged him to quit his horse, when the others robbed him of his watch, and two guineas and a half.

Meeting soon afterwards with a man and woman, on

one horse, near Farnborough in Kent, they ordered them to quit the horse, and robbed them of near forty shillings, and then permitted them to pursue their journey. Soon after the commission of this robbery, they heard the voices of a number of people who were in pursuit of them ; on which, Cooper turned about, and they passed him, but seized on Burrell, one of them exclaiming, " This is one of the rogues that just robbed my brother and sister !"

On this, Burrell fired a pistol into the air, to intimidate the pursuers, among whom were two soldiers, whom Duncalf and Cooper encountered at the same instant, and wounded one of them so dangerously by his own sword, which Duncalf wrested from his hand, that he was sent as an invalid to Chelsea, where he finished his life.

The brother of the parties robbed, and a countryman, contested the matter with the thieves till the former was thrown on the ground, where Burrell beat him so violently, that he died on the spot. The robbers now took their way to London, where they arrived without being pursued.

Cooper and Duncalf then went to a farm-house, and stole all the fowls that were at roost, Duncalf saying to his companion, " the first man we meet must buy my chicken ;" they had not travelled far before they met with a man whom they asked to buy the fowls. He said he did not want any ; but they seized his horse's bridle, knocked him down, and robbed him of above twelve pounds, with his hat and wig, watch and great coat.

In one of their walks towards Camberwell, they met a man of fortune named Ellish, whose servant was lighting him home from a club. They placed pistols to the gentleman's breast, but his servant attempted to defend him ; on which they knocked him down with a bludgeon ; and the master still hesitating to deliver his money, they threw him on the ground, and robbed him of his money, watch, and other articles ; and then tied him and his servant back to back, and threw them into a ditch, where

they lay in a helpless manner, till a casual passenger released them from their disagreeable situation.

The villains now returned towards London, and meeting a man with a sack of stolen venison, they robbed him of his great coat, and thirty-six shillings; and a few nights afterwards, they robbed a man of a few shillings on the Hammersmith road, and destroyed a lanthorn which he carried, that he might not be able to pursue them.

On their return home they met a man on horseback, whom they would have robbed; but he suddenly turned his horse, and rode to Kensington turnpike, and gave an alarm, while the thieves got through a hedge, and concealed themselves in a field. In the interim, the man they had robbed of a few shillings brought a number of people to take the thieves; but not finding them, though within their hearing, the man went towards his home alone; but the rogues pursuing him, took a stick from him, and beat him severely, for attempting to raise the country on them.

Immediately afterwards they hastened towards Brompton, and stopped a gentleman, whom they robbed of his watch and money. The gentleman had a dog, which flew at the thieves; but Cooper, coaxing the animal into good humour, immediately killed him.

Their next expedition was to Paddington, where they concealed themselves behind a hedge, till they observed two persons on horseback, whom they robbed of their watches, great coats, and twelve guineas; and though an immediate alarm was given, and many persons pursued them, they escaped over the fields as far as Hampstead Heath, and came from thence to London.

Soon afterwards they stopped a gentleman between Kingsland and Stoke Newington, who whipped Duncalf so severely, that he must have yielded, had not Cooper struck the gentleman to the ground. They then robbed him of above seventeen pounds, and tying his hands behind him, threw him over a hedge, in which situation he remained till some milkmen relieved him on the following morning.

Meeting a man between Knightsbridge and Brompton, who had a shoulder of veal with him, they demanded his money; instead of delivering which, the man knocked Cooper down three times with his veal: but the villains getting the advantage, robbed the man of his hat and meat, but could find no money in his possession.

Cooper being incensed against the person who had first arrested him, who was Mrs. Pearson of Hill-farm, in Essex, determined to rob her; on which he and his accomplices went to the place, and, learning that she was on a visit, waited till her return at night, when they stopped her and her servant, and robbed them of eight guineas.

On the following day, Mrs. Pearson went to a magistrate, and charged a person named Loader with having committed this robbery; but it appearing that this man was a prisoner for debt at the time, the charge necessarily fell to the ground.

Cooper and his associates meeting a farmer named Jackson in a lane near Croydon, he violently opposed them; on which they knocked him down, and dragged him into a field, and after robbing him of his watch and money, tied him to a tree, and turned his horse loose on a common.

For this robbery, two farriers, named Shelton and Kellet, were apprehended, and being tried at the next assizes for Surrey, the latter was acquitted, but the former was convicted on the positive oath of the person robbed, and suffered death.\*

The three accomplices being out on the road near Dulwich met two gentlemen on horseback, one of whom got from them by the goodness of his horse, and the other attempted to do so, but was knocked down and robbed of his watch and money. In the interim, the party who had rode off (whose name was Saxby) fastened his horse

\* We must here once more repeat, that prosecutors and witnesses cannot be too cautious in giving their evidence, or juries too careful what they believe. Many lives have been sacrificed to mistaken evidence.

to a gate, and came back to relieve his friend ; but the robbers first knocked him down, and then shot him.

Having stripped him of what money he had, they hastened towards London ; but a suspicion arising that Duncalf was concerned in this robbery and murder, he was taken into custody on the following day, and Cooper being taken up on his information, Burrell surrendered, and was admitted an evidence for the crown.

William Duncalf was a native of Ireland, and had received a decent education. He was apprenticed to a miller, who would not keep him on account of his knavish disposition ; and, being unable to procure employment in Ireland, he came to London, where he officiated as a porter on the quays.

Extravagant in his expenses, and abandoned in principle, he commenced smuggler ; but being taken into custody by the custom-house officers, he gave information against some other smugglers ; by which he procured his discharge, and was made a custom-house officer.

Variety of complaints respecting the neglect of his duty being preferred to the commissioners of the customs, he was dismissed, and once more commenced smuggler. Among his other offences, he alleged a crime against a custom-house officer, who was transported in consequence of Duncalf's being perjured.

We have already recounted many of his notorious crimes in conjunction with his accomplices above-mentioned ; but he did not live to suffer the punishment that he merited, for he had not been long in prison before the flesh rotted from his bones, and he died a dreadful monument of the divine vengeance, though not before he had acknowledged the number and enormity of his crimes.

Cooper frequently expressed himself in terms of regret, that a villain so abandoned as Burrell should escape the hands of justice. In other respects his behaviour was very resigned, and becoming his unhappy situation. He acknowledged that he had frequently deliberated with Burrell on the intended murder of Duncalf, lest he should become an evidence against them ; but he now

professed his happiness that this murder had not been added to the black catalogue of his crimes.

When brought to trial he pleaded guilty, and confessed all the circumstances of the murder ; and, after sentence was passed against him, appeared to be a sincere penitent for the errors of his past life.

Being visited by a clergyman and his son, who had known him in his better days, he was questioned respecting the robbery of Mrs. Pearson, which he denied ; but he had no sooner done so, than he was seized with the utinost remorse of mind, which the gaoler attributed to the dread of being hung in chains ; and, questioning him on this subject, he said that he was indifferent about the disposal of his body, but wished to communicate something to the clergyman who attended him ; and, when he had an opportunity, confessed that his uneasiness arose from the consciousness of having denied the robbery of Mrs. Pearson, of which he was really guilty.

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### WILLIAM SMITH,

[A Captain's Clerk in the Royal Navy, Forger of Seamen's Tickets.]

*Executed at Tyburn, October 3, 1750.*

WHEN we hear of crimes being committed by uneducated men, we are led to make some allowance for their ignorance ; but when men of liberal education descend to such vile practices, they have not that excuse, and are therefore the more criminal.

The father of this unfortunate man was a pious clergyman, and rector of Kilmore in Ireland, who himself gave his graceless son a tolerable idea of the learned languages at homé, sent him to Trinity College, Dublin, to finish his education ; and then placed him with an attorney of eminence.

His father dying before the expiration of his clerkship,

he abandoned himself so much to his pleasures, that he was induced to commit a forgery on his master ; in consequence of which he received a considerable sum ; but, being afraid of detection, he resolved to quit his native country.

Hereupon he entered as captain's clerk on board a man of war, and behaved with propriety till about the time that the ship was paid off, when he took to the dangerous practice of forging seamen's tickets ; for the captain employing him to make out tickets for the men, he made several of them payable to himself, and disposed of them for above a hundred pounds ; he likewise secreted about a hundred pounds more, which were due for wages to the seamen, and stole a sum of money belonging to the surgeon's mate.

Having arrived at London, he took the name of Dawson, and served some time as Clerk to an attorney ; but his employer going into the country, and Smith knowing that he had capital connexions in Ireland, he forged a letter in his name, on a merchant in Dublin for 130*l.* which he carried himself, and received the sum demanded, partly in cash, and partly in bank-notes ; after which he took his passage to England, and received the amount of the notes in London.

As it was now dangerous for him to appear in the capital, he strolled about the country till he was almost reduced to poverty, when he again went to Ireland, where he forged an order for the payment of 174*l.* 19*s.* which he received, and brought to England, though a King's-bench warrant was issued for his apprehension in Ireland, where he was likewise indicted.

Assuming a false name, he secreted himself more than half a year in England, when he was met by a gentleman who knew him ; who, remarking the meanness of his appearance, seemed surprized that, with his abilities, he should be destitute of the conveniences of life.

Smith told a deplorable tale of poverty ; said that he was in a bad state of health, and unable to visit his friends in his present situation : on which the gentleman clothed him decently, gave him money, and recommended

him to a physician, whose skill restored him to health in a short time.

Thus reinstated for the present in fortune and constitution, he no longer visited his benefactors, and was soon reduced to his former state of distress.

His friend again meeting him in the usual wretched plight, asked him the occasion of it; on which he said, that, being indebted for lodging, he was obliged to sell his clothes; and that he did not call to thank the physician, because his appearance was so exceedingly abject.

Hereupon his friend once more supplied him with clothes; on which he went to see the physician, who desired him to repose himself awhile, and conversed with him in the most sociable way. Smith arising, as if to depart, presented a pistol to the doctor's face, and threatened his destruction if he did not instantly give him five guineas; but the other, with great indifference, told him that he was an old man, and not afraid of death; that he might act as he thought proper; but that if he perpetrated his design, the report of the pistol would be infallibly heard by his servants, and that the consequence would prove fatal to himself.

Having said this, the gentleman refused to deliver the money demanded; on which Smith was so terrified, that he dropped on his knees, wept with apparent concern for his offence, and begged pardon with such appearance of sincerity that the physician's humanity was excited, and he gave him three guineas, with his best advice for the reformation of his conduct.

Not long after this, Smith casually met an acquaintance named Weeks, who stopped at a shop to receive 45*l.* for a bill of exchange, but was paid only 10*l.* in part, and desired to call for the rest on a future day. Smith having witnessed what passed, forged Mr. Weeks' name to a receipt for the remaining 35*l.* which he received, and embarked for Holland before the villany was discovered.

The next offence which he committed, or rather intended to commit, afforded the immediate occasion of his being brought to justice. He went to the seat of

sir Edward Walpole, near Windsor, and having asked to see him, told him he had a bond from sir Edward to a person named Paterson, who being in distressed circumstances, he (Smith) was commissioned to deliver the bond on a trifling consideration ; but sir Edward, knowing that no such bond subsisted, seized the villain, and committed him to the care of his servants, who conducted him before a magistrate, by whom he was committed to prison at Reading.

He was examined by different justices of the peace on four successive days ; but all that he confessed was, that he was born at Andover. This, however, could not be credited, as the tone of his voice testified that he was a native of Ireland ; on which he was committed to the gaol at Reading, for farther examination.

Smith's transactions having rendered him the subject of public conversation, a suspicion arose that he (though then unknown) was the party who had defrauded Mr. Weeks ; on which notice of the affair was sent to London, and Mr. Weeks went to see him, and knew him to be the person who had forged the receipt in his name.

He was then removed to Newgate, and the next sessions at the Old Bailey was capitally convicted : the jury recommended him to mercy ; but as his character was notorious, and there were other indictments against him, it could not be obtained.

From the time of his commitment, he behaved in the most penitent manner, expressing the utmost compunction for the crimes of which he had been guilty, and prepared for death with every sign of unfeigned repentance ; though, for some time, he reflected on the Honorable Edward Walpole, as the author of his destruction, by an interception of the royal mercy ; but being assured that Sir Edward had not interposed to injure him, he took the whole blame of his misfortunes on himself.

He was so reduced in circumstances before the day of execution, and so utterly destitute of friends to procure him a decent interment, that he was induced to insert the following advertisement in the news-papers :

“ In vain has mercy been entreated ; the vengeance

of heaven has overtaken me ; I bow myself unrepining to the fatal stroke. Thanks to my all-gracious Creator ; thanks to my most merciful Saviour, I go to launch into the unfathomable gulph of eternity !

“ Oh ! my poor soul ! How strongly dost thou hope for the completion of eternal felicity ! Almighty Jehovah, I am all resignation to thy blessed will. Immaculate Jesus ! Oh send some ministering angel to conduct me to the bright regions of celestial happiness.

“ As to my corporeal frame, it is unworthy of material notice ; but for the sake of that reputable family from whom I am descended, I cannot refrain from anxiety, when I think how easily this poor body, in my friendless and necessitous condition, may fall into the possession of the surgeons, and perpetuate my disgrace beyond the severity of the law. So great an impoverishment has my long confinement brought upon me, that I have not a shilling left for subsistence, much less for the procuring the decency of an interment.

“ Therefore, I do most fervently intreat the generosity of the humane and charitably compassionate, to afford me such a contribution as may be sufficient to protect my dead body from indecency, and to give me the consolation of being assured, that my poor ashes shall be decently deposited within the limits of consecrated ground.

“ The deprivation of life is a sufficient punishment for my crimes, even in the rigorous eye of offended justice ; after death has permitted my remains to pass without further ignominy ; then why should inhumanity lay her butchering hands on an inoffensive carcase ? Ah ! rather give me the satisfaction of thinking I shall return to my parent dust, within the confines of a grave.

“ Those who compassionate my deplorable situation, are desired to send their humane contributions to Mrs. Browning's, next door to the Golden Acorn, in Little Wild Street ; and that heaven may reward their charitable disposition, is the dying prayer of the lost and unhappy

WILLIAM SMITH.”

This address, so calculated to impress every feeling

heart, produced the desired effect, and subscriptions were raised for his decent interment.

When brought into the press-yard, and bound with a halter, he dropped upon his knees, prayed very devoutly, and acknowledging his crimes, said, he died in charity with all mankind, and hoped for forgiveness at the Great Tribunal.

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### JAMES MACLANE,

[Called the gentleman Highwayman,]

*Executed at Tyburn, October 3, 1750, for Highway Robbery.*

THOUGH this man had committed many crimes without detection, for which the law, would have sentenced him to die; yet his penitence, added to the distress of his worthy brother, must excite the compassion of the humane. Folly first induced him to be extravagant, and with a naturally good disposition; he plunged himself into ruin, and a countryman, hardened in wickedness, whom he casually met in London, worked upon his reluctant mind, to follow the villainous pursuits of a highwayman; in which, however, it does not appear, that he committed the still greater crime of murder.

The unfortunate subject of this memoir was descended from a reputable family in the north of Scotland; but his father, after being liberally educated in the university of Glasgow, went to settle at Monaghan, in the north of Ireland, as preacher to a congregation of dissenters in that place, where he married, and had two sons, the elder of whom was bred to the church, and preached many years to the English congregation at the Hague, and was equally remarkable for his learning and the goodness of his heart. The younger son was the unfortunate subject of this narrative.

The father dying when James was about eighteen, and

the effects falling into his hands, the whole produce was wasted in extravagance before he was twenty years of age. In this dilemma, he applied for relief to his mother's relations, with a view to fit him out for the naval service; but as they refused to assist him, he entered into the service of a gentleman named Howard, with whom he came to London.

It was not long after his arrival in the metropolis, before he abandoned his service, and going to Ireland, he again solicited the assistance of his mother's relations, who were either unwilling or unable to afford him relief.

Hereupon he abandoned all thoughts of applying to them for support; but this was for some time liberally afforded him by his brother at the Hague, till his expenses began to be too considerable for a continued support from that quarter; for his brother's whole income would not have been sufficient to maintain him as a gentleman.

Hereupon Maclane found it necessary to procure some employment; and making an interest with a military gentleman who had known his father, he recommended him to a colonel who had a country seat near Cork. This gentleman engaged him as a butler; and he continued a considerable time in his service, till he secreted some goods and was dismissed with disgrace, and rendered unable to procure another place in that part of the kingdom.

Being reduced to circumstances of distress, he conceived an idea of entering into an Irish brigade, in the service of France, and communicated his intention to a gentleman, who advised him to decline all thoughts of such a procedure, as he could have no prospect of rising in his profession, unless he changed his religion: a circumstance that he would not consent to, for he still retained some sense of the pious education he had received.

The colonel above-mentioned had dismissed him his service; but, fearing that his desperate circumstances might induce him to further acts of dishonesty, he entrusted him with the care of his baggage to London; and, Maclane wishing to enter as a private man in lord

Albemarle's troop of horse-guards, solicited the colonel to advance him the necessary sum to procure his admission.

The colonel seemed willing to favour his scheme ; but thinking it dangerous to trust the money in his hands, he committed it to the care of an officer belonging to the troop, which was then in Flanders. Every thing was prepared, and his credentials were ready for his joining the troop, when he suddenly declined all thoughts of entering into the army.

Maclane was exceedingly fond of dress, as an introduction to the company of women ; and having received about fifty pounds from some females of more good-nature than sense, under pretence of fitting himself out for a West-India voyage, he expended the greater part of it in elegant clothes, and commenced a professed fortune-hunter.

At length he married the daughter of Mr. Maclegno, a horse-dealer, with whom he received five hundred pounds, with which he commenced the business of a grocer, in Welbeck-street, Cavendish-square, and supported his family with some degree of credit, till the expiration of three years, when his wife died, bequeathing two infant daughters to the care of her parents, who kindly undertook to provide for them ; and who were both living at the time of their father's ignominious death.

Hitherto Maclane's character, among his neighbours, was unimpeached ; but soon after the death of his wife, he sold off his stock in trade and furniture, and assumed the character of a fine gentleman, in the hope of engaging the attention of some lady of fortune, to which he thought himself entitled by the gracefulness of his person, and the elegance of his appearance.

At the end of about six months he had expended all his money, and became greatly dejected in mind from reflecting on that change of fortune which would probably reduce him to his former state of servitude. While in this state of dejection, an Irish apothecary, named Plunket, visited him, and enquired into the cause of his despondency. Maclane acknowledged the exhausted state of

his finances ; candidly confessed, that he had no money left, nor knew any way of raising a shilling but by the disposal of his wearing apparel ; in answer to which Plunket addressed him as follows :

“ I thought that Maclane had spirit and resolution, with some knowledge of the world. A brave man cannot want ; he has a right to live, and not want the conveniences of life, while the dull, plodding, busy knaves carry cash in their pockets. We must draw upon them to supply our wants ; there needs only impudence, and getting the better of a few idle scruples ; there is scarce any courage necessary. All whom we have to deal with are mere poltroons.”

These arguments, equally ill-founded and ridiculous, co-operated so forcibly with the poverty of Maclane, that he entered into conversation with Plunket on the subject of going on the highway ; and at length they entered into a solemn agreement, to abide by each other in all adventures, and to share the profit of their depredations to the last shilling, nor does it appear that either of them defrauded the other.

Maclane, though he had consented to commit depredations on the public, yet was so impressed by that remorse of conscience which will never quit a mind not wholly abandoned, even when engaged in unlawful actions ; that in his first, and most subsequent attempts, he discovered evident signs of want of that false bravery which villains would call courage.

The first robbery these men committed in conjunction, was on Hounslow Heath, where they stopped a grazier, on his return from Smithfield, and took from him about sixty pounds.

This money being soon spent in extravagance, they were induced to take a ride on the St. Alban's road, and seeing a stage-coach coming forward, they agreed to ride up on the opposite sides of the carriage. Maclane's fears induced him to hesitate ; and when at length Plunkett ordered the driver to stop, it was with the utmost trepidation that the other demanded the money of the passengers.

On their return to London at night, Plunkett censured him as a coward, and told him that he was unfit for his business. This had such an effect on him, that he soon afterwards went out alone, and unknown to Plunkett, and having robbed a gentleman of a large sum, he returned and shared it with his companion.

A short time only had elapsed after this expedition, when he stopped and robbed the Honourable Horace Walpole, and his pistol accidentally went off during the attack. For some time did he continue this irregular mode of life, during which he paid two guineas a week for his lodgings, and lived in a style of elegance, which he accounted for by asserting that he had an estate in Ireland which produced seven hundred pounds a year.

During this time his children were in the care of his mother-in-law, whom he seldom visited; and when he did, would not sit down, nor stay long enough for her to give him such advice as might have proved useful to him.

On a particular occasion he narrowly escaped the hands of justice, which terrified him so much, that he went to Holland, on a visit to his brother, who received him with every mark of fraternal affection, and though unsuspecting of the mode in which he lived, yet having but too much reason to fear that he was of a dissipated turn of mind, gave him the best advice for the regulation of his future conduct.

Having remained in Holland till he presumed his transactions in this country were in some measure forgotten, he returned to England, renewed his depredations on the public, and lived in a style of the utmost elegance. He frequented all the public-places, was well known at the gaming-houses, and was not unfrequent in his visits to ladies of easy virtue.

The speciousness of his behaviour, the gracefulness of his person, and the elegance of his appearance, combined to make him a welcome visitor, even at the houses of women of character; and he had so far ingratiated himself into the affections of a young lady, that her ruin would probably have been the consequence of their con-

nection, had not a gentleman, casually hearing of this affair, and knowing Maclane to be a sharper, interposed his timely advice, and saved her from destruction.

After this the visits of the highwayman were forbidden; a circumstance that chagrined him so much, that he sent a challenge to the gentleman; but it was treated with that degree of contempt which all challenges deserve. Our hero, still more vexed by this circumstance, went to several coffee-houses and saying that this gentleman had refused to meet him, abused him in the most opprobrious terms; but those who knew the story, said, it was no proof of cowardice for a man of honour to refuse to meet a person of abandoned character.

Encouraged by his repeated successes, Maclane was thrown off his guard, his usual caution forsook him, and he became every day more free to commit robbery, and less apprehensive of detection; for he imagined that Plunkett's turning evidence could alone affect him; and he had no doubt of the fidelity of his accomplice.

On the 26th of June, 1750, Plunkett and Maclane riding out together, met the earl of Eglinton in a post-chaise, beyond Hounslow, when Maclane advancing to the post-boy, commanded him to stop, but placed himself in a direct line before the driver, lest his lordship should shoot him with a blunderbuss, with which he always travelled, for he was certain that he would not fire so as to endanger the life of the post-boy. In the interim, Plunkett forced a pistol through the glass at the back of the chaise, and threatened instant destruction unless his lordship threw away the blunderbuss.

The danger of his situation rendered compliance necessary, and his lordship was robbed of his money and a surtout coat. After the carriage drove forward, Maclane took up the coat and blunderbuss, both of which were found in his lodgings when he was apprehended; but when he was afterwards tried for the offence which cost him his life, lord Eglinton did not appear against him.

On the day of the robbery above-mentioned Maclane and Plunkett stopped the Salisbury stage, and took two portmanteaus, which, with the booty they had already

obtained, was conveyed to Maclane's lodgings in Pall-Mall, where the plunder was shared.

Immediate notice of this robbery was given in the news-papers, and the articles stolen were described; yet Maclane was so much off his guard, that he stripped the lace from a waistcoat, the property of one of the gentlemen who had been robbed, and happened to carry it for sale to the very laceman of whom it had been purchased.

He also went to a salesman in Monmouth Street, named Loader, who attended him to his lodgings, but had no sooner seen what clothes he had to sell, than he knew them to be those which had been advertised; and pretending that he had not money enough to purchase them, said he would go home for more; instead of which he procured a constable, apprehended Maclane, and took him before a magistrate.

Many persons of rank, of both sexes, attended his examination; several of whom were so affected with his situation, that they contributed liberally towards his present support.

Being committed to the Gate-house, he requested a second examination before the magistrate, when he confessed all that was alleged against him; and his confession was taken in writing.

On this he was committed to the prison above-mentioned, and during his confinement a gentleman wrote to his brother at the Hague, a narrative of his unhappy case, which produced the following answer:

“SIR, *Utrecht, Aug. 16, N. S. 1750.*

“I received your melancholy letter; but the dismal news it contained had reached me before it arrived, as I have been happily absent from the Hague some time.

“I never thought that any belonging to me would have loaded me with such heart-breaking affliction, as the infamous crimes of him, whom I will call brother no more, have brought upon me. How often, and how solemnly, have I admonished him of the miserable consequences, of an idle life; and, alas! to no purpose!

However that be, I have made all the interest possible for his life, filled with shame and confusion, that I have been obliged to make demands so contrary to justice, and hardly knowing with what face to do it, in the character I bear as a minister of truth and righteousness.

“ It is the interest of some friends I have made here, that can alone save his life : they have lost no time in applying, and I hope their endeavours will be successful ; but I still hope more, that if Providence should order events, so that he may escape the utmost rigour of the law, and has his life prolonged which he deserves not to enjoy any longer ; I hope, or rather wish, that in such a case he may have a proper sense and feeling of his enormous crimes, which lay an ample foundation for drawing out the wretched remainder of his days in sorrow and repentance. With respect to me, it would give me consolation, if I could hope that this would be the issue of his trial ; it would comfort me on his account, as he is a man ; for I will never acknowledge him in any nearer relation, and because, except such good offices as former ties and present humanity demands from me in his behalf, I am determined never to have any further correspondence with him, during this mortal life.

“ I have given orders to look towards his subsistence, and what is necessary for it.

“ I am obliged to you sir, for your attention in communicating to me, this dismal news, and shall willingly embrace any opportunity of shewing myself,

“ Sir,

“ Your most obedient, &c.”

“ P.S.—If you see this my unhappy brother, let him know my compassion for his misery, as well as my indignation against his crimes ; and also, that I shall omit nothing in my power to have his sufferings mitigated. He has, I fear, broke my heart, and will make me draw on the rest of my days in sorrow.”

At the next sessions at the Old Bailey, Maclane was indicted, and pleaded “ Not guilty ;” and made the following able defence :

“ My Lord,

“ Your lordship will not construe it vanity in me, at this time, to say, that I am the son of a divine of the kingdom of Ireland, well known for his zeal and affection to the present royal family and happy government; who bestowed an education upon me, becoming his character, of which I have in my hand a certificate from a lord, four members of parliament, and several justices for the county where I was born and received my education.

“ About the beginning of the late French war, my lord, I came to London with a design to enter into the military service of my king and country; but unexpected disappointments obliged me to change my resolution; and having married the daughter of a reputable tradesman, to her fortune I added what little I had of my own, and entered into trade in the grocery way, and continued therein till my wife died. I very quickly after her death found a decay in trade, arising from an unavoidable trust reposed in servants; and, fearing the consequence I sold off my stock, and in the first place, honestly discharged my debts, purposing to apply the residue of my fortune in the purchase of some military employment, agreeable to my first design.

“ During my application to trade, my lord, I unhappily became acquainted with one Plunkett, an apothecary, who by his account of himself, induced me to believe, he had travelled abroad, and was possessed of clothes and other things suitable thereto, and prevailed on me to employ him in attending on my family, and to lend him money to the amount of one hundred pounds and upwards.

“ When I left off trade, I pressed Plunkett for payment, and after receiving, by degrees, several sums, he proposed, on my earnestly insisting that I must call in all debts owing to me, to pay me, part in goods and part in money.

“ These very clothes with which I am charged, my lord, he brought to me to make sale of, towards payment of my debt, and accordingly, my lord, I did sell them,

very unfortunately, as it now appears; little thinking they were come by in the manner Mr. Higden hath been pleased to express, whose word and honour are too well known to doubt the truth.

“ My lord, as the contracting this debt between Plunkett and myself was a matter of private nature, so was the payment of it; and therefore, it is impossible for me to have the testimony of one single witness to these facts, which (as it is an unavoidable misfortune) I hope, and doubt not, my lord, that your lordship and the gentlemen of the jury will duly weigh.

“ Is it probable, nay, is it possible, that if I had come by those clothes by dishonest means, I should be so imprudent as to bring a man to my lodgings, at noon-day, to buy them, and give my name and place of residence, and even write that name and place of residence myself in the salesman’s book? It seems to me, and I think must to every man; a madness that no one, with the least share of sense, could be capable of.

“ My lord, in the course of Mr. Higden’s evidence, he hath declared, that he could not be positive either to my face or person, the defect of which I humbly presume, leaves a doubt of the certainty of my being one of the two persons.

“ My lord, it is very true, when I was first apprehended, the surprise confounded me, and gave me the most extraordinary shock; it caused a delirium and confusion in my brain, which rendered me incapable of being myself, or knowing what I said or did; I talked of robberies as another man would do in talking of stories; but, my lord, after my friends had visited me in the Gatehouse, and had given me some new spirits, and when I came to be re-examined before justice Lediard, and then asked, if I could make any discovery of the robbery, I then alleged I had recovered my surprise, that what I had talked of before concerning robberies was false and wrong, but it was entirely owing to a confused head and brain.

“ This, my lord, being my unhappy fate; but, unhappy as it is, as your lordship is my judge and pre-

sumptive counsel, I submit it, whether there is any other evidence against me than circumstantial.

“ First, the selling of the lace and clothes, which I agree I did ; for which I account.

“ Secondly, the verbal confession of a confused brain ; for which I account.

“ All this evidence, I humbly apprehend, is but circumstantial evidence.

“ It might be said, my lord, that I ought to shew where I was at this time.

“ To which, my lord, I answer, that I never heard the time, nor the day of the month, that Mr. Higden was robbed ; and, my lord, it is impossible for me, at this juncture, to recollect where I was, and much more to bring any testimony of it.

“ My lord, in cases where the prisoner lies under these impossibilities of proof, it is hard, nay it is very hard, if presumption may not have some weight on the side of the prisoner. I humbly hope, and doubt not, that that doctrine will not escape your lordship’s memory to the jury.

“ My lord, I have lived in credit, and have had dealings with mankind, and therefore humbly beg leave, my lord, to call about a score to my character, or more, if your lordship pleases ; and then, my lord, if, in your lordship’s opinion, the evidence against me should be by law only circumstantial, and the character given of me by my witnesses should be so far satisfactory, as to have equal weight, I shall most willingly and readily submit to the jury’s verdict.”

Nine gentlemen being called gave him a very good character.

The jury brought him in guilty, without going out of court ; when he was called to receive sentence, he attempted to make an apology, but only said, “ My lord, I cannot speak ;” what he intended to offer was next day published, importing, that he hoped some circumstances might entitle him to so much mercy, as might remove him from being a disgrace to his family, and enable him to pass his days in penitence and obscurity.

Maclane having been educated as a dissenter, was attended, at his own request, by Dr. Allen, a reverend divine of the presbyterian persuasion.

The doctor, at his first visit, found this unhappy person under inexpressible agonies of mind, arising from a deep sense, not only of his misery, but of his guilt. He declared, that although most of those, with whom he had lately conversed, ridiculed all religion, yet the truths of Christianity had been so deeply rooted in his mind by a pious education, that he never entertained the least doubt about them, even while he was engaged in courses of the most flagitious wickedness, by which it became his interest to disbelieve them.

He declared also, that "neither death, nor the violence and infamy, with which, in his case, it would be attended, gave him the least uneasiness; but expressed the most dreadful apprehension of coming into the presence of the Almighty, whose laws he had known only to violate, and the motions of whose spirit he had felt only to suppress."

The doctor replied, that though these apprehensions were just, yet, if he could be sincerely penitent, he might through the merits and intercession of the blessed Jesus, be forgiven, but pressed him earnestly not to deceive himself, adding, "It is impossible for me to know your heart; and your present circumstances make it very difficult for you yourself to know it:" he then apprised him of the great difficulty of obtaining a rational hope, that a repentance is genuine, which had no beginning till guilt was overtaken by punishment, and the terrors of death were displayed before him. Maclane felt the force of this argument, but said, that if the utmost abhorrence of himself, for the enormities of his life, if the deepest sense of his ingratitude to God, and the violation of his conscience, which always reproached him: if indignation at himself, for the injuries which he had done to society, and the distresses which he had brought upon his relations, were marks of sincere penitence, he hoped, that indeed he was a penitent sinner; and that, although he had but little time to live, and therefore was unable to evince the

sincerity of his repentance, by many fruits of it, yet if he knew any thing of his heart, he had no desire of life, but as an opportunity of fulfilling the good resolutions, which the near view of death had produced. "What is life," said he, "with the loss of my good name? What, indeed, is life, with all its advantages? I profess to you, sir, that I have had more pleasure in one hour's conversation with you, than in all the gay vanities I have ever engaged in."

In one of these conversations the doctor took occasion to tell him, that the defence which he had made at his trial, was not a token of that sincerity of heart, which he had so solemnly professed: to this he answered, that what he had done on that occasion, was by the advice of an attorney; that he thought it a just defence in law; and that if it had preserved his life, it would have prevented the disgrace, which his death would bring upon his family, and would have afforded him an opportunity of making some reparation to society, by becoming a useful member of it, and of proving the sincerity of his repentance by his reformation.

Upon an enquiry if his father was really a minister in Ireland, he burst into a sudden flood of tears, and acknowledged it, expressing, in the most affecting manner, his regret for having acted in violation of the principles which had been early implanted in his mind, by a tender and pious parent; a circumstance which, he said, greatly aggravated his guilt.

But he often lamented, that he had not been brought up to some employment, which would have made industry necessary, instead of to writing and accounts, which, as a genteeler business, was chosen for him: and once he added, "O! Sir, I have often thought, in my necessities, before I had broken in upon my innocence, that had I had a mechanic trade in my hands, that would have employed my whole time, I should have been a happy man."

Dr. Allen told him it had been reported, that he lived upon very ill terms with his wife, and that his cruelty hastened her death: he absolutely denied it, and indeed

his wife's mother took leave of him with great tenderness, and uncommon ardour of affection. When he was asked, if he had any hope of respite, he answered, very little; and being told, that the great number of robberies committed by persons of genteel appearance, rendered it very improbable that he should be spared; he said he acquiesced, and desired his example might be pressed as a warning to young persons; adding, with great earnestness, "Glad should I be, if, as my life has been vile, my death might be useful."

He acknowledged, that his friends having once raised a little contribution to enable him to ship himself for Jamaica, he carried it to the gaming-table at the masquerade; where at first he had some success, and hoped to win enough to buy a little military post; but at length he lost his ALL, and having alienated his friends, by his abuse of their bounty, and disposed of whatever he could either pawn or sell, he, by the persuasion of Plunkett, took to the highway. With him, who was his only accomplice, he committed many robberies, but had always shuddered at the thought of murder, and was thankful to God, that he had not incurred the guilt of shedding innocent blood.

After the death warrant came down, no additional dejection or sadness appeared in his countenance, but rather a more steady and composed resignation. He asked Dr. Allen whether he should receive the sacrament, on the morning of the execution, with the other criminals? to which he readily consented, but said, that he hoped it was not necessary to warn him against considering it as a charm, or passport, which, he feared, was too frequently done by those who are grossly ignorant, or invincibly stupid.

A youth who had been condemned, but was afterwards ordered to be transported for life, chose to continue in the cell with Maclane; and as they had opportunity, they went among the other prisoners who were ordered for execution, to instruct them, pray with them, and assist them in their preparation for death. But Maclane was greatly shocked at the insensibility and profaneness

of some, and pitied the souls which were going into eternity in so hopeless a state.

These incidents the doctor improved as evidences of his sincerity. The day before his execution, in the presence of several gentlemen from Holland, he gave him a letter from his brother, at the sight of which he fell into an agony of grief, and said, "O! my dear brother! I have broke his heart!"---After some pause, as if in doubt, whether he should read it or not, he said, "I have been long educated to sorrow, and cutting as this letter will be to my heart, I must read it---beginning with the first words, "Unhappy brother," he cried out in great agony of mind, "unhappy indeed!" and then, endeavouring to compose himself, read the letter with emotions suitable to the solemnity of its contents, and desired to read it a second time. It was then proposed to the company present, to unite in a solemn prayer to God for him: they consented, and though strangers to the prisoner, the minister, and each other, there was not a dry eye among them. In the evening of the same day, he took his last farewell of Mr. H. a friend of his brother, and of Dr. Allen; "This," said he, "is the bitterness of death!" he eagerly embraced them both, dropped suddenly on his knees, and prayed to God to bless them for ever.

He spent all that night, with the youth who has been mentioned before, in his devotions. At going into the cart he was heard to say, "O! my God, I have forsaken thee! but I will trust in thee!" and all the accounts of his behaviour in his passage to the place of execution, and at it, concur in testifying that he went through the whole awful scene with manly firmness, joined with all the appearance of true devotion: and "I hope," says the doctor, "that he has found that mercy with God, which he so earnestly sought."

After this affecting account of a criminal overcome by remorse, and struggling with terror, in the expectation of a sudden, violent, and ignominious death, let us take a view of the prosperous robber, while he is enjoying or appearing to enjoy, that which he gains at such a dreadful hazard, and while he is mixing unsuspected in the

most gay and elevated circles of life, and we shall then see that virtue alone affords true happiness.

When he was in lodgings at Chelsea, and probably lived in external splendour, the agitation and disturbance of his mind was so great, that he was often observed to roll about the floor of his room in great agony.

When he was among ladies and gentlemen of rank and fortune, and even while he was engaged in the most splendid and captivating entertainments, the anguish of his mind was too strong to be suppressed, and his company would then ask, what it was that produced the melancholy and discontent which they perceived in his countenance.

In a good cause, no man had greater courage than Maclane, but in every scheme of villany he was a coward. The moment in which he entered on the highway, he totally lost his peace of mind, and became the slave of dreadful apprehensions and perpetual terror.

In these circumstances, could the gaiety of his appearance, or the favour of the great, the company of women, or the splendour of a masquerade, put him in possession of any thing equivalent to one hour of peace and safety? Let those answer whose love of pleasure is most predominant; their decision will be in favour of virtue: neither let the idle nor the voluptuous flatter themselves that they shall be able to procure the same gratifications without the same alloy.

The state of the mind in the contemplation of a crime, is very different from that which follows the commission; the sufferings of guilt cannot be realised by imagination, nor eluded in the experiment. Let those, therefore, who are yet innocent, make no approaches to the precipice from which this man fell, and let those whose crimes have not yet been detected, hasten from the brink.

Being arrived at Tyburn, he looked sadly up at the gallows, and with a heart-felt sigh exclaimed, "O Jesus!" He took no notice of the populace, all his attention being fixed upon his devotions, and spoke to no one, except the constable that first apprehended him, who desired to shake hands with him, and intreated his forgiveness; to

which the dying man giving his hand, replied, " I forgive you, and may God bless you and your friends ; may he forgive my enemies, and receive my soul."

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## JOHN CARR,

*Executed at Tyburn, November 16, 1750, for  
Forgery.*

THE history of this man affords a curious example of the impositions which male and female fortune-hunters practise on each other. In this instance the man was outwitted and was still more unfortunate in his schemes of deception afterwards.

John Carr was a native of the north of Ireland. His parents were respectable, and his education was genteel. At sixteen years of age he was sent to reside with a kinsman in Dublin. When he grew to years of maturity, his kinsman put him into business, as a wine and brandy merchant, and he seemed to be in the road to success ; but his friend dying, he attached himself to bad company, neglected his business, lost his customers, and was soon greatly reduced in his circumstances.

A man of fortune, who was one of his abandoned associates, invited Carr to pass part of the summer at his seat in the country ; and having set out together they stopped at Kilkenny, where some passengers quitted a coach ; among whom was a young lady, whose elegant person and appearance impressed Carr with an idea that she was of rank, and inspired him with the first sentiments of love that he ever felt.

Throwing himself from his horse, he handed her into the inn ; and a proposal being made that the company should sup together, it was agreed to on all hands ; and while the supper was preparing, Carr applied himself to the coachman to learn the history of the young lady ; but all the information he could obtain was, that he had

up at Dublin, and that she was going to the Spa at Marlow.

Carr, being anxious to become better acquainted with the lady, prevailed on the company to repose themselves the next day at Kilkenny, and take a view of the duke of Ormond's seat, and the curiosities of the town. This proposal being acceded to, the evening was spent in the utmost harmony and good-humour : and the fair stranger, even then, conceived an idea of making a conquest of Mr. Carr, from whose appearance she judged that he was a man of distinction.

In the morning she dressed herself to great advantage, not forgetting the ornament of jewels, which she wore in abundance ; so that when she entered the room, Carr was astonished at her appearance. She found the influence she had over him, and resolved to afford him an early opportunity of speaking his sentiments ; and while the company was walking in the gallery of the duke of Ormond's palace this opportunity offered.

The lady affected displeasure at this explicit declaration ; but soon assuming a more affable deportment, she told him she was an English woman of rank ; that his person was not disagreeable to her, and that if he was a man of fortune, and the consent of her relations could be obtained, she should not be averse to listening to his addresses. She further said, that she was going to spend part of the summer at Marlow, where his company would be agreeable ; and he followed her to that place, contrary to the advice of his friend, who had formed a very unfavourable opinion of the lady's character.

Here he dissipated so much cash in company with this woman, that he was compelled to borrow of his friend, who remonstrated on the impropriety of the connection : but Carr still kept her company, and at the end of the season returned with her to Dublin.

Here the lovers agreed to sail for England : Carr sold some small estates, and borrowed all the money he possibly could, and then delivered the whole to his mistress.

Preparations were now made for the voyage, and Carr employed himself in procuring a passage to England ;

but in his absence the lady shipped all the effects on board a vessel bound for Amsterdam ; and having dressed herself in nian's apparel, she embarked and sailed, leaving Carr to regret his ill-judged credulity.

On his return home, he discovered how he had been robbed, and was at first half distracted with his loss ; but, on cooler reflection, he thought it would be in vain to pursue the thief ; on which he sold the few trifles that remained of his property, which produced about a hundred pounds, with which he came to London, and soon spent the whole in debauchery and extravagance.

Thus reduced, he enlisted as a foot soldier, and served some years before he was discharged ; after which, he entered as a marine at Plymouth, whence he came to London, and opened a shop in Hog-lane, St. Giles's. He now married a girl who he thought had money, but soon discovering her poverty, he abandoned her, and removed to Short's-gardens, where he entered into partnership with a cork-cutter.

Having soon ingratiated himself into the esteem of the customers, he opened a shop on his own account, and soon got all the business from his late partner. This, however, proved of no service to him, for getting into bad company, he frequented the gaming-tables, and became the dupe of sharpers,

These villains, determined to possess themselves of all his money, offered to procure him a wife of fortune, though they knew he had a wife living ; and actually contrived to introduce him to a young lady of property ; and a marriage would probably have taken place, had not one of them, struck with remorse of conscience, developed the affair to her father, and frustrated the whole scheme ; and soon afterwards, Carr's companions quitted him, having reduced him to the last shilling.

Having been entrusted by a gentleman with a draught on the Bank for sixty pounds, he received the money, and spent it all in the lowest scenes of debauchery, and again entered as a marine.

There being something in his deportment superior to the vulgar, he was advanced to the rank of sergeant, in

which he behaved so well, that his officers treated him with singular regard.

The vessel in which he sailed taking a merchant-ship richly laden, and soon afterwards several smaller vessels, the prize-money amounted to a considerable sum; which gave Carr an idea that very great advantages might be obtained by privateering. Hereupon he procured a discharge; and entering on board a privateer, was made master at arms.

In a few days the privateer took two French ships, one of which they carried to Bristol, and the other into the harbour of Poole. Having refitted their ship, they sailed again, and in two days took a French privateer, and gave chase to three others, which they found to be English vessels belonging to Falmouth, which had been taken by a French privateer. These they retook, and carried them into Falmouth: and on their passage to that place, they made prize of a valuable French ship, the amount of which contributed to enrich the crew.

On their next trip, they saw a ship in full chase of them; on which they prepared for a vigorous defence, and indeed it was necessary, for the vessels fought above forty minutes yard-arm and yard-arm. Many hands were lost by the French, who at length attempted to sheer off, but were taken, after a chase of some leagues.

The commander of the English privateer being desperately wounded in the engagement, died in a few days; on which Carr courted his widow, and a marriage would have taken place, had she not been seized with a violent fever, which deprived her of life; but not before she had bequeathed him all she was possessed of.

Having disposed of her effects, he repaired to London, where he commenced smuggler; but his ill-gotten effects being seized by the officers of the revenue, he took to the more dangerous practice of forging seamen's wills, and gained money for some time; but being apprehended, he was brought to trial at the Old Bailey, convicted, and sentenced to die.

He was of the Roman catholic persuasion, and died with decent resignation to his fate.

## THOMAS REYNOLDS,

*Executed at Tyburn, for enlisting Soldiers for the Service of the King of France.*

THIS traitor was a Roman catholic, born and educated in Ireland. He was an excellent scholar, being master of the Latin and French languages. When a young man he went over to France, where he enlisted as a hussar. On the rebel expedition being fitted out there to invade Scotland, he served an officer, who was killed at the battle of Culloden, in the capacity of valet. After this he was taken at Carlisle, and from speaking French so very fluently, he was exchanged as a Frenchman.

Being a man of genteel address, he ingratiated himself so far into the good opinion of a rich widow, near Carlisle, as to persuade her to marry him; but he soon left her, taking away from her all he could lay his hands upon, and returned to France, where he got an appointment in the retinue of the ambassador from that country to the court of St. James's.

Having now some money, he determined on taking a public-house, his master having attended king George II. on his visit to Hanover, and left him behind. He then sent for his wife to attend the bar, while he put in practice a plan which he long had in contemplation of seducing our soldiers, and enlisting them for the service of France; and in this treasonable practice he was too long successful. His public-house was in St. Giles's, and frequented by lewd women, and men of abandoned morals.

Several soldiers of the guards frequented Reynolds's house, and having already sent off some to France, he began to practise his deceit upon one Carnes, a private soldier in the foot-guards. He persuaded him to take money for this service, and shewed him fourteen or fifteen suits of regimentals, belonging to soldiers whom he had already sent to France. He desired him to cut off his hair, wear a smock frock, and to avoid the large

towns, on his road to Dover, or pass through them in the night. As a guard over him, he sent one of the prostitutes, many of whom he had at his command, who was to see him shipped, and give him money. Thus he meant to evade the proof of his having enlisted him.

Arrived at Dover, Carnes went to the castle, and disclosed the treason to the fort major. The woman, finding this, fled back to London.

The insinuations which Reynolds used, to tempt the soldiers from their loyalty, was to represent the severe punishments in the English army, and the lenity in the French; that he had power to enlist for lord Ogilvie's regiment, one of the finest in the French army; where they would be treated like gentlemen. He gave them abundance of spirituous liquors and sent prostitutes to keep them company, until he found an opportunity of shipping them. He also contributed, at different times, to send to France English arms and ammunition; which were supposed to be for the purpose of another invasion and rebellion in Scotland.

The fort major detained Carnes, and sent information to the War Office. Before Reynold's could be apprised of this, he was seized, his house searched, and different regimental clothing found concealed. He was convicted of the treason, on the clearest evidence, and sentenced to be hanged.

He protested his innocence to the very last moment of his life; declared, that he went to be hanged with as much satisfaction as if he were *again* going to be married.

GEORGE ANDERSON, *alias* JOHN EVERETT,

[A Pickpocket within the very Walls of Newgate.]

*Executed at Tyburn, Dec. 21, 1750, for stealing Ribbons.*

THIS man was a native of Hertford ; in which town he served his apprenticeship to a baker. The young men in the neighbourhood declined associating with him, and held him in universal abhorrence, so ungracious were his manners, and so strong was his propensity to wickedness.

Upon the expiration of his apprenticeship, he connected himself with a gang of notorious gamblers, and other dissolute wretches ; in conjunction with whom he perpetrated a great number of villanies, but for several years escaped the vengeance of the law.

By persuasions and the promise of a sum of money, Everett, and a man named Wrigg, induced a young woman to exhibit a charge of felony against two innocent men, who were put on their trial, but happily acquitted, as the perjured evidence was not able to authenticate her accusation. In revenge for their failing to supply the girl with the money they had promised, she lodged an information against Everett and Wright, who were in consequence indicted for subornation of perjury, and sentenced to stand on the pillory at the end of Chancery-lane, where they received very severe treatment from the populace.

Soon after the above punishment had been inflicted, Everett was tried at Hicks's-hall, and sentenced again to stand on the pillory, for having fraudulently obtained a thirty-six-shilling piece. He was afterwards convicted of having circulated counterfeit Portugal coin, and ordered to be imprisoned for two years in Newgate.

Soon after Everett's trial, a company of gentlemen went to Newgate to visit a criminal, and in a short time they discovered that they had been robbed of their hand-

kerchiefs. The circumstance being mentioned to Everett, he pretended to be so much surprised, and intimated that there was but little probability of the property being recovered. However, in a little time he produced the handkerchiefs, and received some money from the gentlemen, as a reward for his supposed honesty.

While he remained in Newgate, he picked the pocket of almost every person who came to visit the prisoners : he was continually uttering the most reprobate speeches, and seemed to delight in the practice of every species of wickedness. Upon the expiration of the time he was sentenced to remain in prison, he found sureties for his good behaviour for two years, and was discharged.

Having stopped a young gentleman in Fleet-street, he was asked if a robbery was intended ? upon which he knocked the gentleman down ; but a large dog belonging to the injured party immediately seized the villain, who with great difficulty disengaged himself just time enough to escape being secured by the watchman.

Everett and a woman of the town went to a small inn at Hoddesden in Hertfordshire, which was kept by an ancient widow, and being invited into a room behind the bar, after having each drank a glass of wine, the widow and her female guest went to walk in the garden : in the mean time Everett broke open a bureau, and stole sixty pounds in cash, and several gold rings. They kept the widow in conversation till the time of going to bed, in order to divert her from going to the bureau ; and the next morning decamped with their booty.

They took the road to Nottingham, whence they crossed the country to Newmarket, and then returned to London. Everett's numerous villanies had rendered his name so notorious, that he was fearful of being apprehended ; and therefore he went under the denomination of George Anderson, and lived in a very private manner till the money he had so wickedly obtained was expended.

He now procured a knife eighteen inches long, and determined to levy contributions on passengers on the highway. In the road between Kentish-town and Hampstead, he attempted to rob a countryman, who being of

an intrepid temper, a desperate contest ensued, in which Everett proved the conqueror, and dangerously wounded his antagonist, from whom, however, he obtained but a small booty.

At length he was detected in stealing a quantity of ribbons in a shop in London, and was apprehended, but not without making a vigorous resistance; in doing which he dangerously wounded the shop-keeper in the face and hands with a knife.

For this crime he was tried at the Old Bailey, convicted, and received sentence of death. The night after the warrant for his execution arrived, he laid a plan to escape. He was furnished with implements for this purpose, and for sawing off his fetters, by his wife and kept mistress, who, on this occasion, agreed; but being discovered, the former was sent to one of the comptors, and his concubine to the other. On this he became so insolent and outrageous, that it was necessary to chain him to the floor of his cell, where he remained blaspheming and threatening vengeance to the keeper and turnkeys, until he was brought out for execution.

A report being circulated that he meditated a design against the life of the gaoler, his cell was carefully searched, but no suspicious instruments were found.

Whether he really harboured the design of murdering the keeper, is a matter of doubt. He denounced vengeance against the man who gave the information, declaring, with horrid imprecations, that if he could procure a pistol, or any other offensive weapon, he would put him to death.

He joined in prayer with the ordinary of Newgate at the place of execution, but declined addressing the populace, and a little time before he was turned off, said he considered death as too severe a punishment for the crime he had committed.

JOHN CATHER, PATRICK KANE, AND  
DANIEL ALEXANDER,

EXTORTIONERS.

*Pillored, imprisoned, and kept to hard Labour.*

THERE are a set of villains constantly prowling for plunder, in the metropolis and its environs, who extort money from men of property, under threats of accusing them with some heinous or abominable crime.

Oftentimes the gentleman thus singled out by these conspirators, though innocent, dreading even the breath of suspicion against his character, is terrified into consent to give them money ; and when once the devoted victim has thus yielded to their design, there is no end to the extortions, from time to time made upon him ; his whole fortune would not satisfy the rapacity of such rascals.

In the present case, the Hon. Edward Walpole became the mark of these extortioners. It appeared in evidence, on the trial of these men, that Mr. Walpole had been secretary to the duke of Devonshire, while his grace was lord lieutenant of Ireland, and on his return to London, being in want of a confidential servant, wrote to his friend lord Boyle to procure him one, who some time after sent to England, John Cather, the culprit above-named, who was the son of one of his lordship's Irish tenants ; but Mr. Walpole having in the mean time hired an English servant, with whom he was well satisfied, he declined taking him ; but told him to remain in his house until a place could be found for him.

Thus was Cather, when he committed the basest act of ingratitude, maintained like a gentleman, Mr. Walpole having, from time to time, even supplied him with pocket-money.

One day he was observed by one of Mr. Walpole's servants, in new gay clothes, which he put on and off with much vivacity, and slipped in and out of the house, in a

way that shewed he did not wish to be seen in his new dress. This soon came to the knowledge of the master, who, confident that he could not honestly come by the means of procuring such articles, suspected he had been plundered, and forbid him his house.

From this moment he meditated revenge ; and when the mind is prone to vice, we soon find an opportunity of putting it into practice. Cather, during the time he enjoyed Mr. Walpole's bounty, having no employ, formed acquaintance with bad characters ; and among which were a gang of his own countrymen, who supported their excesses by extorting money.

These villains laid their snare for Mr. Walpole, in which, however, they were caught themselves. He resisted their attempts, and caused them to be apprehended.

On the 5th of July, John Cather, Patrick Kane, Daniel Alexander, and ——— Dixon, were brought up to the King's-bench, charged with a conspiracy in swearing a disgraceful crime against the Hon. Edward Walpole. They were found guilty, after a trial which lasted several hours, and received the following sentence :

*John Cather*—to stand three times in and upon the pillory ; the first time at Charing-cross ; the second, in Fleet-street ; and the third, in Cornhill ; to be kept to hard labour in Clerkenwell bridewell, for the term of four years ; then to give security, himself in 40*l.* and two sureties in 20*l.* each, for his good behaviour for four years more.

*Patrick Kane*—to stand once upon the pillory, and to be kept to hard labour in Clerkenwell bridewell two years, then to give the like security for five years more.

*Daniel Alexander*, who was an attorney-at-law, and solicitor to the conspirators ! and who was the greatest villain of the gang, was sentenced to stand once upon the pillory, to be imprisoned three years in the King's-bench prison, to give security for good behaviour for three years more, himself in 200*l.* and two sureties in 100*l.* each ; and to be struck off the roll of attornies.

*Dixon* ran away from his merited fate.

The law, which confiscates a man's estate for stealing a

penny, and hangs him for thieving to the amount of a shilling, has hardly provided an adequate punishment for extortioners, conspirators, swindlers, perjurers, gamblers, and rogues of those descriptions.

To some men the pillory would be no punishment; and to stand with the head and hands fastened to a block of wood, for an hour, where no pain arises from the punishment, would be no terror to them, were not the honest populace, indignant at the law's not punishing more severely such diabolical villains, to supply the defect. This was amply done on the present villains; who were most severely pelted.

*Dixon*, another of this gang of extortioners, for a while eluded the search made after him; but being at length taken, he was brought to trial, and on the 4th of May, 1752, sentenced by the court of King's-bench, to be imprisoned two years, to find sureties for his good behaviour, and to stand once upon the pillory at Charing-cross, where the mob treated him with no less severity than they had already done his former associates in villany.

## NORMAN ROSS,

A FOOTMAN,

*Executed at Edinburgh, January 8, 1751, for murdering his Mistress.*

THIS treacherous servant was descended from reputable parents at Inverness, in the north of Scotland, who gave him a good education, and intended that he should be brought up in a merchant's counting-house; but before he had completed his fifteenth year, his father and mother died, leaving Norman and several other children wholly unprovided for.

Norman made application for employment to several merchants; but though he was well qualified for business,

his proposals were rejected, because he could not raise the sum usually given upon entering into a merchant's service as an articled clerk.

Thus situated, he engaged himself as a footman to a widow lady of fortune, who on account of having been acquainted with his parent, behaved to him with singular kindness. The lady had a son, who was then a military officer in Flanders; and the campaign there being concluded, the young gentleman returned to his native country, to visit his mother, and transact some business particularly relating to himself.

Observing Ross to possess many qualifications not usual to persons in his situation, he proposed taking him abroad in the capacity of valet-de-chambre; and the old lady acquiesced in her son's desire.

Ross continued in the officer's service for the space of about five years; during which period he behaved with the utmost diligence and fidelity. The regiment being broke, on the conclusion of the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, the officer set out on the tour of France and Italy, and Ross returned to Scotland for the benefit of his native air.

Soon after his return to Scotland, he recovered his health, and set out in order to pay his respects to his former mistress; but learning that she had been dead about three weeks, he repaired to Edinburgh, where he was hired as a footman by an attorney-at-law. Having contracted an intimacy with a number of livery servants, he was seduced by their example to the practices of swearing, gaming, drinking, and other vices; and he was dismissed from his service on account of his impudence and the irregularity of his conduct.

Ross now became footman to Mrs. Hume, a widow lady of great fortune and remarkable piety.

In the winter she resided at Edinburgh, and in the summer at a village called Ayton, about four miles from the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed. About four months after he had been hired by Mrs. Hume, the lady removed to her house at Ayton; and some time after, a female servant in the family, with whom he had maintained a

criminal intercourse, was brought to bed ; and it therefore became necessary for him to supply her with money for the support of herself and the infant.

He continued to provide her with the means of subsistence, from the month of April till August, by borrowing money of his fellow-servants and other persons with whom he was acquainted.

The woman at length becoming exceedingly importunate, and his resources being wholly exhausted, he was driven nearly to a state of distraction, and in that disposition of mind formed the fatal resolution of robbing his mistress.

Mrs. Hume slept on the first floor, in an apartment behind the dining-room, and being unapprehensive of danger, her bed-chamber door was seldom locked ; and with this circumstance Ross was well-acquainted, as well as that she usually put the keys of her bureau (and the other places where her valuable effects were deposited) under her pillow.

He determined to carry his execrable design into execution on a Sunday night ; and waiting in his bed-room, without undressing himself, till he judged the family to be asleep, he descended, and leaving his shoes in the passage, proceeded to his lady's bed-chamber. Endeavouring to get possession of the keys, the lady was disturbed, and being dreadfully alarmed, called for assistance ; but the rest of the family lying at a distant part of the house, her screams were not heard. Ross immediately seized a clasp-knife that lay on the table, and cut his mistress's throat in a most dreadful manner. This horrid act was no sooner perpetrated, than, without waiting to put on his shoes, or to secure either money or other effects, he leaped out of the window, and after travelling several miles, concealed himself in a field of corn.

In the morning, the gardener discovered a livery hat, which the murderer had dropped in descending from the window ; and suspecting that something extraordinary had happened, he alarmed his fellow-servants.

The disturbance in the house brought the two daughters

of Mrs. Hume down stairs ; but no words can express the horror and consternation of the young ladies, upon beholding their indulgent parent weltering in her blood, and the fatal instrument of death lying on the floor.

Ross being absent, and his shoes and hat being found, it was concluded that he must have committed the barbarous deed ; and the butler therefore mounted a horse, and alarmed the country, lest the murderous villain should escape. The butler was soon joined by great numbers of horsemen, and on the conclusion of the day, when both men and horses were nearly exhausted through excessive fatigue, the murderer was discovered in a field of standing corn: His hands being tied behind him, he was taken to an adjacent public-house, and on the following morning he was conducted before a magistrate of Edinburgh, who committed him to prison.

On the trial of this offender, he had the effrontery to declare, that his mistress usually admitted him to her bed, and that it was his constant practice to leave his shoes at the dinin -room door. He said, that upon entering the chamber, he perceived the lady murdered, and leaped through the window, in order to discover who had perpetrated the barbarous deed ; adding, that having lost his hat, he did not chuse to return till evening, and therefore concealed himself among the corn. He was severely reprimanded by the court, for aggravating his guilt by aspersing the character of a woman of remarkable virtue and piety, whom he had cruelly deprived of life.

The law of Scotland bears an affinity to that of the Romans. It invests the judges with power to punish criminals in such manner as they may deem to be proportioned to their offences. This privilege was exercised in the case of Ross, whose crime having been attended with many aggravating circumstances, he was sentenced to have his right hand chopped off, then to be hanged till dead, the body to be hung in chains, and the right hand to be affixed at the top of the gibbet, with the knife made use of in the commission of the murder.

Upon receiving sentence of death, he began seriously

to reflect on his miserable situation, and the next day requested the attendance of Mr. James Craig, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, to whom he confessed his guilt ; declaring that there was no foundation for his reflections against the chastity of the deceased.

Six weeks elapsed between the time of his trial and that of his execution, during which he was visited once every day by Mr. Craig. He shewed every sign of the most sincere penitence, and refused to accompany two prisoners who broke out of gaol, saying he had no desire to recover his liberty, but on the contrary would cheerfully submit to the utmost severity of punishment, that he might make some atonement for his wickedness.

The day appointed for putting the sentence of the law into force being arrived, Ross walked to the place of execution, holding Mr. Craig by the arm. Having addressed a pathetic speech to the populace, and prayed some time with great fervency of devotion, the rope was put round his neck, and the other end of it being thrown over the gallows, it was taken hold of by four chimney-sweepers.\* The criminal now laid his right hand upon a block, and it was struck off by the executioner at two blows ; immediately after which the chimney-sweepers, by pulling the rope, raised him from the ground ; when he felt the rope drawing tight, by a convulsive motion, he struck the bloody wrist against his cheek, which gave him an appearance too ghastly to admit of description. The body was bound in chains, and hung upon a gibbet, the hand being placed over the head with the knife stuck through it.

\* The chimney-sweepers of Edinburgh are obliged to assist the executioner whenever they are required.

## RICHARD BUTLER,

*Executed at Tyburn, Feb. 10, 1751, for Forgery.*

RICHARD Butler was one of those unhappy men who, after having lived with credit, have been seduced into idleness and gaming and then into dishonesty till they have ended their life at the gallows. He was born at Thurles, in the county of Tipperary, in Ireland. His father was a reputable farmer, who bound him apprentice to a baker, in Waterford. He proved so faithful and diligent a servant, that he was held in universal esteem ; and, upon the expiration of his apprenticeship, his father gave him a hundred pounds, for the purpose of establishing him in business.

The above sum enabled him to open a shop in Waterford, where he had a favourable prospect of success ; but, instead of attending to his business, he frequented horse-races, cock-fighting, and other gambling meetings, and engaged in a variety of expenses greatly beyond what his income could afford ; the consequence of which was, that in about six months his affairs were in a most embarrassed situation.

Being unable to continue his business, he returned to Thurles, where he formed a great number of infamous stratagems for extorting money from his relations ; but they threatened, that unless he quitted that part of the country, they would cause him to be apprehended, and proceed against him with the utmost rigour of the law.

Butler applied to a clergyman at Thurles, representing his case in a plausible manner, and supplicating that he would use his interest with his father to prevail upon him to grant twenty pounds in addition to his former favours. The worthy divine pleaded in behalf of the young man, and with the desired success. Upon delivering the money, the reverend gentleman exhorted him to apply it to a proper use ; which he promised to do, adding that he would immediately depart for Cork, and not return to the place of his nativity till, by an unremitting perse-

verance in a system of integrity, he had made atonement for all the errors of his past conduct.

On his arrival at Cork, he procured employment as a journeyman; and in that capacity he was so industrious and strictly economical, that in a short time he made such addition to his stock, that he was able to open a shop on his own account. He was much encouraged, and his circumstances were supposed to be more flourishing than they were in reality.

Coming into possession of a handsome sum of money, by marrying the widow of a custom-house officer, who lived in the neighbourhood, Butler took a tavern of considerable business, where his circumstances would have been much improved, but for his connections with maritime people, to whom he gave unlimited credit, and was under the necessity of taking smuggled goods in payment or losing his money.

An information being laid against him for having smuggled goods in his possession, his effects were seized for the use of the crown, and he was under the necessity of quitting Ireland.

Butler and his wife took shipping for Plymouth, and in that town they hired a house, which they let in lodgings to sea-faring people. In about three years he was obliged to quit Plymouth, and repaired to the metropolis, in a very distressed condition.

He had not been long in London, before the grief consequent on the various scenes of distress she had passed through, produced the death of his wife.

Butler being now in very distressed circumstances, he communicated his case to some of his countrymen; and he yielded to their persuasions for acquiring a livelihood by forging seamen's wills.

Butler, Horne, and a woman named Catherine Gannon, went to the Navy-office to enquire what wages were due to Thomas Williamson, a foremast-man belonging to the *Namur*, and learnt that the sum was about eight and thirty pounds. They then made application to a proctor, the woman producing a forged will, and declaring herself to be the widow of Williamson. They were

desired to call the next day, when a probate would be granted.

Butler and his female accomplice attended according to the appointment; but the proctor having, in the mean time, searched the offices, found that the will in question was opposed by four caveats; and having further reason to suspect an intended fraud, he caused them to be apprehended. Being taken before the lord-mayor, Gannon acknowledged that she had received a few shillings from Butler and Horne, who had promised to make the sum up five pounds on condition of her swearing herself to be the widow of Thomas Williamson. Butler was committed to Newgate; and Gannon and Horne were admitted evidences for the crown.

At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, Butler was tried, and sentenced to die. While under sentence of death he regularly attended prayers in the chapel, and employed a great part of his time in private devotions, agreeable to the doctrines of the protestant faith. At the place of execution he prayed with great fervency of zeal, acknowledged the justice of his sentence, and, after addressing the populace, was turned off.

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### WILLIAM PARSONS, Esq.

[Eldest Son and Heir to Sir William Parsons, Bart. of the County of Nottingham.]

*Executed at Tyburn, February 11, 1751, for returning from Transportation.*

THE unhappy subject of this narrative was born in London, in the year 1717. He was placed under the care of a pious and learned-divine at Pepper-harrow, in Surrey, where he received the first rudiments of education. In a little more than three years, he was removed to Eton college, where it was intended that he should qualify himself for one of the universities.

While he was a scholar at Eton, he was detected in

stealing a volume of Pope's Homer in the shop of a bookseller named Pote. Being charged with the fact, he confessed that he had stolen many other books at different times. The case being represented to the master, Parsons underwent a very severe discipline.

Though he remained at Eton nine years, his progress in learning was very inconsiderable. The youth was of so unpromising a disposition, that sir William determined to send him to sea, as the most probable means to prevent his destruction, and soon procured him the appointment of midshipman on board a man of war, then lying at Spithead, under sailing orders for Jamaica, there to be stationed for three years.

Some accident detaining the ship beyond the time when it was expected she would sail, Parsons applied for leave of absence, and went on shore; but having no intention to return, he immediately directed his course towards a small town about ten miles from Portsmouth, called Bishop's Waltham, where he soon ingratiated himself into the favour of the principal inhabitants.

His figure being pleasing, and his manner of address easy and polite, he found but little difficulty in recommending himself to the ladies.

He became greatly enamoured of a beautiful and accomplished young lady, the daughter of a physician of considerable practice, and prevailed upon her to promise she would yield her hand in marriage.

News of the intended marriage coming to the knowledge of his father sir William, and his uncle, the latter hastened to Waltham to prevent a union which he apprehended would inevitably produce the ruin of the contracting parties.

With much difficulty the uncle prevailed upon Parsons to return to the ship, which in a few days afterwards proceeded on her voyage.

The ship had not been long arrived at the place of destination, when Parsons resolved to desert, and return to England, and soon found an opportunity of shipping himself on board the Sheerness man of war, then preparing to sail on her return home.

Immediately after his arrival in England, he set out for Waltham, in order to visit the object of his desires ; but his uncle being apprised of his motions, repaired to the same place, and represented his character in so unfavourable, but at the same time in so just a manner, that he prevented the renewal of his addresses to the physician's daughter.

He went home with his uncle, who observed his conduct with a most scrupulous attention, and confined him, as much as possible, within doors. This generous relation at length exerted his interest to get the youth appointed midshipman on board his majesty's ship the Romney, which was under orders for the Newfoundland station.

Upon his return from Newfoundland, Parsons learnt, with infinite mortification, that the dutchess of Northumberland, to whom he was related, had revoked a will made in his favour, and bequeathed to his sister a very considerable legacy, which he had expected to enjoy. He was repulsed by his friends and acquaintance, who would not in the least countenance his visits at their houses ; and his circumstances now became exceedingly distressed.

Thus situated he applied to a gentleman named Bailey, with whom he had formerly lived on terms of intimacy ; and his humanity induced him to invite Parsons to reside in his house, and to furnish him with the means of supporting the character of a gentleman. Mr. Bailey also was indefatigable in his endeavours to effect a reconciliation between young Parsons and his father, in which he at length succeeded.

Sir William having prevailed upon his son to go abroad again, and procured him an appointment under the governor of James Fort, on the river Gambia, he embarked on board a vessel in the service of the Royal African company.

Parsons had resided at James Fort about six months, when a disagreement took place between him and governor Aufleur ; in consequence of which the former signified a resolution of returning to England. Hereupon the governor informed him that he was commis-

sioned to engage him as an indented servant for five years. Parsons warmly expostulated with the governor, declaring that his behaviour was neither that of a man of probity or a gentleman, and requested permission to return. But so far from complying, the governor issued orders to the centinels to be particularly careful lest he should effect an escape.

Notwithstanding every precaution, Parsons found means to get on board a homeward-bound vessel, and being followed by Mr. Aufeur, he was commanded to return, but cocking a pistol, and presenting it to the governor, he declared he would fire upon any man who should presume to molest him. Hereupon the governor departed, and in a short time the ship sailed for England.

Soon after his arrival in his native country, he received an invitation to visit an uncle who lived at Epsom, which he gladly accepted, and experienced a most cordial and friendly reception.

He resided with his uncle about three months, and was treated with all imaginable kindness and respect. At length one of the female servants in the family swore herself to be pregnant by him, which so incensed the old gentleman, that he dismissed Parsons from his house.

Reduced to the most deplorable state of poverty, he directed his course towards the metropolis; and three halfpence being his whole stock of money, he subsisted four days upon the bread purchased with that small sum, quenching his thirst at the pumps he casually met with in the streets. He lay four nights in a hay-loft in Chancery-lane, belonging to the master of the rolls, by permission of the coachman, who pitied his truly deplorable case.

At length he determined to apply for redress to an ancient gentlewoman with whom he had been acquainted in his more youthful days, when she was in the capacity of companion to the dutchess of Northumberland. Weak and emaciated through want of food, his appearance was rendered still more miserable by the uncleanness and disorder of his apparel; and when he appeared before the old lady, she tenderly compassionated his unfortunate

situation, and recommended him to a decent family in Cambridge-street, with whom he resided some time in a very comfortable manner, the old gentlewoman defraying the charge of his lodging and board ; and a humane gentleman, to whom she had communicated his case, supplying him with money for common expenses.

Sir William came to town at the beginning of the winter, and received an unexpected visit from his son, who dropped upon his knees, and supplicated forgiveness with the utmost humility and respect. His mother-in-law was greatly enraged at his appearance, and upbraided her husband with being foolishly indulgent to so graceless a youth, at the same time declaring, that she would not live in the house where he was permitted to enter.

Sir William asked him what mode of life he meant to adopt ? and his answer was, that he was unable to determine ; but would cheerfully pursue such measures as so indulgent a parent should think proper to recommend. The old gentleman then advised him to enter as a private man in the horse-guards ; which he approved of, saying, he would immediately offer himself as a volunteer.

Upon mentioning his intention to the adjutant, he was informed that he must pay seventy guineas for his admission into the corps. This news proved exceedingly afflicting, as he had but little hope that his father would advance the necessary sum. Upon returning to his father's lodgings, he learnt that he had set out for the country, and left him a present of only five shillings.

Driven now nearly to a state of distraction, he formed the desperate resolution of putting an end to his life, and repaired to St. James's park, intending to throw himself into Rosamond's pond. While he stood on the brink of the water, waiting for an opportunity of carrying his impious design into effect, it occurred to him, that a letter he had received, mentioning the death of an aunt, and that she had bequeathed a legacy to his brother, might be made use of to his own advantage ; and he immediately declined the thoughts of destroying himself.

He produced the letter to several persons, assuring them that the writer had been misinformed respecting

the legacy, which in reality was left to himself; and under the pretext of being entitled to it, he obtained money and effects from different people to a considerable amount. Among those who were deceived by this stratagem was a tailor in Devereux-court in the Strand, who gave him credit for several genteel suits of clothes.

The money and other articles thus fraudulently obtained, enabled him to engage in scenes of gaiety and dissipation; and he seemed to entertain no idea that his happiness would be but of short duration.

Accidentally meeting the brother of the young lady to whom he had made professions of love at Waltham, he intended to renew his acquaintance with him, and his addresses to his sister; but the young gentleman informed Parsons that his sister died suddenly a short time after his departure from Waltham.

Parsons endeavoured, as much as possible, to cultivate the friendship of the above young gentleman, and represented his case in so plausible a manner, as to obtain money from him, at different times, to a considerable amount.

Parsons' creditors now became exceedingly importunate, and he thought there was no probability of relieving himself from his difficulties, but by connecting himself in marriage with a woman of fortune.

Being eminently qualified in those accomplishments which are known to have a great influence over the female world, Parsons soon ingratiated himself into the esteem of a young lady possessed of a handsome independency, bequeathed her by her lately deceased father. He informed his creditors that he had a prospect of an advantageous marriage; and as they were satisfied that the lady had a good fortune, they supplied him with every thing necessary for prosecuting the amour, being persuaded that, if the expected union took place, they should have no difficulty in recovering their respective demands.

The marriage was solemnized on the 10th of February, 1740, in the 23d year of his age. On this event, the uncle, who lived at Epsom, visited him in London, and

gave him the strongest assurances that he would exert every possible endeavour to promote his interest and happiness, on condition that he would avoid such proceedings as would render him unworthy of friendship and protection. His relations in general were perfectly satisfied with the connexion he had made, and hoped that his irregular and volatile disposition would be corrected by the prudent conduct of his bride, who was justly esteemed a young lady of great sweetness of temper, virtue, and discretion.

A few weeks after his marriage, his uncle interceded in his behalf with the right honourable Arthur Onslow; and through the interest of that gentleman he was appointed an ensign in the thirty-fourth regiment of foot.

He now discharged all his debts, which proved highly satisfactory to all his relations; and this conduct was the means of his obtaining further credit in times of future distress.

He hired a very handsome house in Poland-street, where he resided two years, in which time he had two children, one of whom died very young. From Poland-street, he removed to Panton-square, and the utmost harmony subsisted between him and his wife, who were much respected by their relations and acquaintances.

But it must be observed, that though his conduct in other respects had been irreproachable from the time of his marriage, he was guilty of unpardonable indiscretion as to his manner of living; for he kept three saddle-horses, a chaise and pair, several unnecessary servants, and engaged in many other superfluous expences that his income could not afford.

Unfortunately Parsons became acquainted with an infamous gambler, who seduced him to frequent gaming-houses, and to engage in play. He lost considerable sums, which were shared between the pretended friend of Parsons, and his wicked accomplices.

Parsons was now promoted to a lieutenancy in a regiment that was ordered into Flanders, and was accompanied to that country by the abandoned gamester, whom he considered as his most valuable friend. The money

he lost in gaming, and the extravagant manner in which he lived, in a short time involved him in such difficulties that he was under the necessity of selling his commission, in order to discharge his debts contracted in Flanders. The commission being sold, Parsons and his treacherous companion returned to England.

His arrival was no sooner known, than his creditors were extremely urgent for the immediate discharge of their respective claims; which induced him to take a private lodging in Gough-square, where he passed under the denomination of captain Brown. He pretended to be an unmarried man; and saw his wife only when appointments were made to meet at a public-house. While he lodged in Gough-square, he seduced his landlord's daughter, who became pregnant by him; and her imprudence in yielding to the persuasions of Parsons, proved the means of involving her in extreme distress.

His creditors having discovered the place of his retreat, he deemed it prudent to remove; and at this juncture an opportunity offered by which he hoped to retrieve his fortune; and he therefore embarked as captain of marines on board the Dursley privateer.

Soon after the arrival of the ship at Deal, Parsons went on shore, provided with pistols, being determined not to submit to an arrest, which he supposed would be attempted. He had no sooner landed on the beach, than he was approached by five or six men, one of whom attempted to seize him; but Parsons, stepping aside, discharged one of the pistols, and lodged a ball in the man's thigh. He then said, he was well provided with weapons, and would fire upon them if they presumed to give him further molestation. Hereupon the officers retreated; and Parsons returned to the ship, which sailed from Deal the following morning.

They had been in the channel about a week, when they made prize of a French privateer, which they carried into the port of Cork. Parsons being now afflicted with a disorder that prevailed among the French prisoners, was sent on shore for the recovery of his health. During his illness, the vessel sailed on another

cruise, and he was no sooner in a condition to permit him to leave his apartment, than he became anxious to partake of the fashionable amusements.

In order to recruit his finances, which were nearly exhausted, he drew bills of exchange on three merchants in London, on which he raised 60*l.*; and before advice could be transmitted to Cork, that he had no effects in the hands of the persons on whom he had drawn the bills, he embarked on board a vessel bound for England.

He landed at Plymouth, where he resided some time under a military character, to support his claim to which he was provided with a counterfeit commission. He frequented all places of public resort, and particularly where gaming was permitted. His money being nearly expended, he obtained a hundred pounds from a merchant of Plymouth, by means of a false draft upon an alderman of London. Some time after the discovery of the fraud, the injured party saw Parsons a transport prisoner on board a ship bound to Virginia, lying in Cat-water bay, where he assured him of an entire forgiveness, and made him a present of a guinea.

From Plymouth, Parsons repaired to London, and his money being nearly spent, he committed the following fraud, in conjunction with a woman of the town: taking his accomplice to a tavern in the Strand (where he was known), he represented her as an heiress, who had consented to a private marriage, and requested the landlord to send immediately for a clergyman. The parson being arrived, and about to begin the ceremony, Parsons pretending to recollect that he had forgotten to provide a ring, and ordered the waiter to tell some shop-keeper in the neighbourhood to bring some plain gold rings. Upon this the clergyman begged to recommend a very worthy man, who kept a jeweller's shop in the neighbourhood: and Parsons said it was a matter of indifference with whom he laid out his money; adding, that as he wished to compliment his bride with some small present, the tradesman might also bring some diamond rings.

The rings being brought, and one of each chosen, Parsons produced a counterfeit draft, saying, the jeweller

might either give him change then, or call for payment after the ceremony ; on which the jeweller retired, saying, he would attend again in the afternoon. In a little time, the woman formed a pretence for leaving the room, and upon her not returning soon, our hero affected great impatience, and, without taking his hat, quitted the apartment, saying, he would enquire of the people of the house whether his bride had not been detained by some unforeseen accident.

After waiting a considerable time, the clergyman called the landlord ; and as neither Parsons nor the woman could be found, it was rightly concluded, that their whole intention was to perpetrate a fraud. In the mean time, our hero and his accomplice met at an appointed place, and divided their booty.

Soon after the above transaction, Parsons intimated to a military officer, that, on account of the many embarrassments he was under, he was determined to join the rebel army, as the only expedient by which he could avoid being lodged in prison. The gentleman represented the danger of engaging in such an adventure, and lest his distress should precipitate him to any rash proceeding, generously supplied him with forty guineas, to answer present exigencies.

He soon after borrowed the above gentleman's horse, pretending that he had occasion to go a few miles into the country, on a matter of business ; but he immediately rode to Smithfield, where he sold the horse at a very inadequate price.

That he might escape the resentment of the gentleman whom he had treated in so unworthy a manner, he lodged an information against him, as being disaffected to the government : in consequence of which he was deprived of his commission, and suffered an imprisonment of six months. He exhibited informations of a similar nature against two other gentlemen, who had been most liberal benefactors to him, in revenge for refusing any longer to supply him with the means of indulging his extravagant and profligate disposition.

In the year 1745, he counterfeited a draft upon one

of the collectors of the excise, in the name of the duke of Cumberland, for five hundred pounds. He carried the draft to the collector, who paid him fifty pounds in part, being all the cash that remained in his hands.

He went to a tailor, saying, he meant to employ him, on the recommendation of a gentleman of the army, whom he had long supplied with clothes ; adding, that a captain's commission was preparing for him at the war-office. The tailor furnished him with several suits of clothes ; but not being paid according to agreement, he entertained some suspicion as to the responsibility of his new customer ; and therefore enquired at the war-office respecting captain Brown, and learnt that a commission was making out for a gentleman of that name. Unable to get any part of the money due to him, and determined to be no longer trifled with, he instituted a suit at common-law, but was non-suited, having laid his action in the fictitious name of Brown, and it appearing that Parsons was the defendant's real name.

Parsons sent a porter from the Ram Inn, in Smithfield, with a counterfeit draft upon sir Joseph Hankey and Co. for five hundred pounds. Parsons followed the man, imagining that if he came out of sir Joseph's house alone, he would have received the money ; and that if he was accompanied by any person, it would be a strong proof of the forgery being discovered ; and as he observed sir Joseph and the porter get into a hackney-coach, he resolved not to return to the inn.

He next went to a widow named Bottomley, who lived near St. George's church, and saying that he had contracted to supply the regiment to which he belonged with hats, gave her an order to the amount of a hundred and sixty pounds. He had no sooner got possession of the hats, than he sold them to a Jew for one half of the sum he had agreed to pay for them. "

Being strongly apprehensive that he could not long avoid being arrested by some of his numerous and highly exasperated creditors, by means of counterfeit letters, he procured himself to be taken into custody, as a person disaffected to the king and government ; and was sup

and Carter went under the piazzas in Covent-garden, where the latter demanded a gentleman's money, while Dowdell watched at a little distance, to give notice in case of a surprise. While Carter was examining the gentleman's pockets, he drew his sword, and killed the robber on the spot; and a mob gathering at the instant, it was with great difficulty that Dowdell effected his escape.

He now went to the lodgings of a woman of ill fame, who having been heretofore kept by a man of rank, he had given her a gold watch and some trifling jewels, which Dowdell advised her to pawn, to raise him ready money.

The girl hesitating to comply, he beat her in a most violent manner; on which she swore the peace against him; whereupon he was lodged in Newgate, but discharged at the next sessions, no prosecution being commenced against him.

He was no sooner at large, than he made a connexion with a woman of the town, whom an officer had taken to Gibraltar, and during her residence with him she had saved a hundred moidores. Dowdell having possessed himself of this sum, soon spent it extravagantly, and then prevailed on her to pawn her clothes for his support.

Talbot was the son of poor parents, who lived in Wapping, and having received a common education, he engaged himself as the driver of a post-chaise, in the service of a stable-keeper in Piccadilly. While he was driving two gentlemen on the Bath road, a highwayman stopped the carriage, and robbed them of their watches and money.

This circumstance gave Talbot an idea of acquiring money by illicit means: wherefore, on his return to London, he made himself acquainted with some highwaymen, assuring them that he was properly qualified to give them the intelligence necessary for the successful management of their business.

His proposal met with a ready acceptance; and a company having soon afterwards hired a coach and six of his master to go to Bath, Talbot gave one of the

highwaymen notice of the affair, and it was resolved that the robbery should be committed on Hounslow-heath.

The highwaymen meeting the carriage on the appointed spot, robbed the parties of all they had ; so that they were obliged to return to London for money before they could pursue their journey. Talbot's share of this ill-gotten booty amounted to fifty pounds, which gave him such spirits that he resolved to pursue the same iniquitous mode of living.

In consequence of this resolution, Talbot informed the highwayman of some company going to Bath, and he attempted to rob them ; but a gentleman in the carriage shot him dead on the spot.

Mortified at this accident which had befallen his friend, Talbot no sooner arrived in London, than he determined to resign his employment, and commence robber on his own account ; but previous to engaging in this business, he spent his ready money in the worst company.

After several attempts to commit robberies, and having narrowly escaped the hands of justice, he grew sick of his employment, and requested his former master to take him into his service. This he declined ; but in pity to his distress, recommended him to a nobleman, in whose family he was engaged.

Talbot had been but a short time in his new place, before he robbed the house of several articles of value, which he sold to the Jews, to supply the extravagance of one of the maid servants, with whom he had an amour.

This theft was not discovered at the time ; but Talbot was soon discharged from his place, in consequence of the badness of his temper, which rendered him insupportable to his fellow-servants.

On his dismissal he spent his ready money with the most abandoned company, and then commencing house-breaker, committed a variety of depredations in the neighbourhood of London : for one of which he was apprehended, and brought to trial at the Old Bailey, but acquitted for want of evidence.

On the very evening he was acquitted, he stopped a carriage in Drury-lane, and robbed a gentleman of his

money, which he soon spent among the most dissolute of both sexes; and within a week afterwards he broke into a house in Westminster, where he obtained plate and cash to a large amount, but was not apprehended for this offence.

In a few days he was taken into custody for picking a gentleman's pocket, brought to trial at the Old Bailey, sentenced to be transported for seven years, shipped to America, and sold to slavery.

He had not been long in this situation, when he embarked at Boston, in New England, on board a privateer: and, when at sea, he entered into a conspiracy with some of the sailors, to murder the officers, and seize the vessel: but the confederacy being discovered in time, a severe punishment was inflicted on Talbot and the other villains.

Talbot, quitting the privateer, sailed to England in a man of war, and engaging with some street-robbers in London, was apprehended, convicted, and sentenced to die; but he found interest to obtain a pardon on condition of transportation.

However, he had not been long abroad before he returned, in company with an abandoned woman, who had been transported at the same time; and this woman introduced him to the acquaintance of Quin and Dowdell, in company with whom he committed a considerable number of robberies.

These accomplices robbed six coaches one evening, and obtained considerable plunder; but this being soon spent in extravagance, they at length embarked in a robbery which cost them their lives.

Having made a connexion with one Cullen, they all joined in a street-robbery, and stopping a coach near Long Acre, robbed a gentleman of his watch and money.

Some people being informed of the affair, immediately pursued them; and Cullen, being taken into custody, was admitted an evidence against his accomplices, who were apprehended on the following day.

Being brought to trial at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, they received sentence of death; but, after conviction, seemed as little sensible of the enormity of their

crimes, as almost any offenders whose cases we have had occasion to record.

Dowdell and Quin were Roman catholics ; and Talbot refusing to join in devotion with the ordinary of Newgate, at the place of execution, we can say nothing of the disposition of mind in which they left this world.

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## WILLIAM CHANDLER,

[A singularly artful Villain,]

*Transported in the Year 1751, for Perjury.*

THIS man has not been exceeded in art and hypocrisy by any of his fraternity. His plan was to rob a whole county. When a robbery is committed, the hundred where it happens, or the county at large, are responsible for the amount of the loss, which the injured, in certain cases, may sustain. In his attempt at this kind of fraud, he charged three innocent men with robbery, and, had his tale been believed, the charge would have affected their lives. Happily his diabolical attempt was frustrated, and we are almost led to regret, that a severer punishment did not overtake him.

William Chandler was the only child of Mr. Thomas Chandler, of Woodborough, near the Devizes, a gentleman farmer of two hundred pounds a year, who, at the age of about seventeen, fixed him with Mr. Banks, clerk of the goldsmith's company ; from whom, by reason of frequent disputes, he was turned over, before two years past, to Mr. Hill, of Clifford's-inn, and here he gained the esteem of his master, and respect of his clients.

Chandler, while he was with Mr. Banks, had married the maid servant, but so artfully concealed it, that it was never suspected by either of his masters, nor any of his own family ; and Mr. Hill having a long contested lawsuit in hand for the father, the profits of which he made

over to his son, he was enabled to keep his wife in lodgings.

Chandler's clerkship being nearly expired, he projected a scheme to double his fortune. This scheme was to get as much money into his hands as he could possibly raise, to set out with it to the country, upon some plausible pretence, swear he was robbed of it by the way, and then sue the hundred. To do this in the ordinary way he knew was hazardous, and liable to many miscarriages ; he therefore laid his plot so deep, that, as he thought, it should be beyond the reach of human discovery.

In the first place, it was necessary to raise a sum, which could not be done without deceiving both his father and master ; he therefore told the former, that he had an advantageous match in view, and the latter, that he had a rich uncle in Suffolk, whom he pretended to visit, and to have received from him several Bank bills, which he shewed, to favour the deceit. By these artifices he obtained from his father the possession of an estate worth about four hundred pounds, and accounted to his master for his having five hundred pounds more, which it does not appear how he acquired.

He then applied to his master to advance five hundred pounds upon his new estate ; which, with his other five hundred pounds, he was going, he said, to lend to one Mrs. Strait, of Salisbury, on an estate at Enford, within six or seven miles from his father's house, on which there was a prior mortgage of five hundred pounds, with interest due to one Mr. Poor, of Enford, who wanted to call in his money.

Mr. Hill, believing his clerk implicitly, even with respect to the value of his estate, procured the five hundred pounds of one Mr. Winter. While the mortgage was making, Mr. Chandler went down to Mrs. Strait, and offered to pay Mr. Poor his five hundred pounds and interest, and to advance to her five hundred pounds more, on the same estate, which she readily accepted ; and though it was now the 14th of March, 1747, he appointed her to meet him at Enford, on the 25th of the

same month; to receive the money: he then hurried home, and immediately prepared a proper assignment for Mr. Poor's mortgage to himself, with receipts for the thousand pounds, and wrote to Mrs. Strait not to forget the day (March 25, 1748), appointing ten as the hour of meeting. Now, on the 22d, the mortgage of Chandler's own estate to Winter was executed, and the money paid in three bank notes, which Chandler the next day changed at the bank, for eight of fifty pounds, and five of twenty pounds each, all of the same date, and payable to Henry Taylor.

On the 24th, early, having got most of his cash in small bills, to the amount of nine hundred pounds, he found, when he came to put these in canvas bags under his garters, where he proposed to carry them for safety, that they made too great a bundle, and therefore he took several of the small bills, with some cash, amounting to four hundred and forty pounds, and exchanged them at the bank for two notes, one of four hundred pounds, and the other of forty pounds; the first of which, in his way home, he changed, in his master's name, at sir Richard Hoare's, for one note of two hundred pounds, and two of one hundred pounds each; but told his master, that the bank clerks were a little out of humour at the trouble he had already given them, and that he had changed his small notes with a stranger in the bank-hall for the notes which he in reality had received at sir Richard Hoare's. Mr. Hill, at Chandler's request, having wrote down the numbers and dates of the several bills, and seen them put safe up, Chandler took leave of him, and about twelve o'clock set out.

About four the same afternoon, though he had ninety miles to go by ten on the morrow, he had reached no farther than Hare-hatch, about thirty miles from London, where he stopped at Mr. Butter's to refresh, and about five, just as he had left his inn, was, as he said, unfortunately met by three bargeiren on foot, who, after they had robbed him of his watch and money, took him to a pit close by the road, and there stript him of all his bank notes, bound his hands and feet, and left him, threatening

to return and shoot him, if he made the least noise. In this woeful condition, he lay three hours, though the pit was so near the road, that not a single horse could pass without his hearing ; yet when night came he could jump, bound as he was, near half a mile all up hill, till, luckily for his purpose, he met one Avery, a silly shepherd, who cut the strings, but could give no account what they were, or how fastened.

The first question Chandler asked Avery after he had unbound him was, where a constable or tythingman lived ? Upon which Avery conducted him to Richard Kelly, the constable, just by, and with him Mr. Chandler left the notices required by the statutes, with the description of the persons who robbed him, so exactly, that Mr. Young, of Hare-hatch, remembered three such men to have passed by his house about the very time the robbery was said to have been committed, who were also seen and known by Mr. Dredge, the mayor of Reading, on Maidenhead thicket, between four and five the same day. Chandler then returned to the inn where he had refreshed, and after telling his deplorable tale, and acquainting his landlord with his intentions of suing the hundred, he ordered a good supper, a bowl of punch, and sat down with as little concern, as if nothing had happened.

Next day Chandler returned to London, acquainted his master with what had happened, and requested his assistance. Mr. Hill gave him the memorandum he had of the numbers, dates, and sums of the notes, and sent him to the bank to stop payment ; but instead of that, he went to Mr. Tufley, a silversmith in Cannon-street, bought a silver tankard, and in payment changed one of the notes for one hundred pounds, which he received the day before at sir Richard Hoare's ; and on his return to his master, told him the bank did no business that day because of the hurry the city was in on account of the fire in Cornhill, which happened the night before ; he therefore went again next morning, and when he came back, being asked by Mr. Hill for the paper on which he had taken down the numbers, &c. he said, he had left it with the clerks of the bank, who were to stop the notes,

but that he had taken an exact copy of it; which was false, for he had reserved Mr. Hill's copy, and left another at the bank, in which he had so craftily altered the numbers and dates of the three notes he received at sir Richard Hoare's, amounting to four hundred pounds, as to prevent their being stopped, and Mr. Hill's remembering the difference. Thus he opened a way for getting four hundred pounds into his hands without obstruction. But when it appeared that three of the notes had been falsely described, there having been none such given out by the bank, and Chandler was questioned by his master about it, and ordered to bring back the original paper, he made a pretence of going to the bank, and then brought back word, that the clerks could not find it; and said, they never kept such papers, after they had made an entry.

On the 26th, he inserted a list of his notes, being fifteen in all, with their dates and numbers, in the daily papers, offering a reward of fifty pounds for the recovery of the whole, or in proportion for any part; and on the afternoon of the same day withdrew his advertisement in all the daily papers, and took his own written copy away at each place. And on the 29th of March, 1748, he put the notice of the robbery and the description of the robbers in the London Gazette, as the law directs, except that he did not particularise the notes, as he had done in other papers.

On the 12th of May following, he made the proper information before a justice of the peace; but though Mr. Hill, his master, was with him, and had undertaken to manage the cause for him, yet he made the same omission in his information, as in his advertisement in the London Gazette.

All things being prepared, on the 18th of July, 1748, Chandler proceeded to try his cause, and after a hearing of twelve hours, by a special jury at Abingdon assizes, obtained a verdict for nine hundred and seventy pounds, subject, however, to a case reserved for the opinion of the court of common pleas, concerning the sufficiency of the description of the bank notes in the London Gazette.

and the information ; which case was afterwards decided in favour of the county.

In the mean time, Chandler, fearing that by what came out upon the trial, he should soon be suspected, and that he might be arrested by Mr. Winter, who had now discovered that his mortgage was insufficient, obtained a protection from lord Willoughby de Brooke, and gave out that he was removed into Suffolk, to reside, as he had before pretended, with his rich uncle : but in reality, he retired to Colchester, where his brother-in-law, Humphry Smart, had taken an inn, with whom he entered into co-partnership, and never came publicly to London afterwards. He was, however, obliged to correspond with his master, on account of the point of law, which was soon to be argued ; and therefore to come at his letters, without discovering his place of abode, he ordered them to be directed, " To Mr. Thomas Chandler, at Easton, in Suffolk, to be left for him at the Crown, at Audley, near Colchester, in Essex."

Mr. Hill having written several letters to Mr. Chandler, pressing him to come to town (as the term grew near), and he evading it by trifling excuses, began to suspect him even before the point of law was determined.

Just before this event, twelve of the notes, of which Mr. Chandler pretended to be robbed, were all brought to the bank together, having been bought October 31, 1748, at Amsterdam, of one John Smith, by Barent Solomon, a broker there, and by him transmitted to his son, Nathan Solomon, a broker at London. Upon further enquiry it appeared, that John Smith, who sold the notes, stayed but a few days in Holland, that he was seen in company with Mr. Casson, a Holland trader, and came over in the packet with him. Mr. Casson was then found, and his description of John Smith answered the person of Chandler, who was then pressed, by letter, to come to town and face Casson, to remove suspicion, but he refused.

And now the scene began to open apace ; for about this time the very paper which Chandler left when he stopped payment of the notes at the bank, was found ;

which, when Mr. Hill saw, and that it was not his writing, he quite gave up his clerk, and from that time assisted in the prosecution. By means of the bank books, they traced every circumstance that has been related of his taking out the 400*l.* note, afterwards changing it at sir Richard Hoare's, for three lesser notes, his passing these notes, and by whom received; and even his buying the tankard of Tufley, which tankard was afterwards produced in evidence against him. All that now remained was to come at his person; and with this view, Mr. Wise, Mr. Hill, and Mr. Casson, about Midsummer, 1749, set out for Colchester, from thence went to the Crown, at Audley, and there enquiring for Easton, were directed first to one place, and then to another of that name; and after a fruitless journey of one hundred and fifty miles, they returned to the very inn then kept by Chandler, at Colchester, and departed for London, without gaining any intelligence.

Chandler, who himself saw them at his house, immediately sold his goods, and took a small inn at Coventry, where, though one hundred and fifty miles from Colchester, and nearly ninety miles from London, he was still apprehensive of being arrested by Mr. Winter, and therefore he sent a draft to Mr. Gauntlet, a linen-draper of his acquaintance, for one hundred and fifty pounds, to be paid to Mr. Hill, and by him to Mr. Winter. This draft he procured at Northampton, and there put it into the post. By the post-mark of this letter he was at length traced to his new habitation at Coventry, where an indictment for perjury having been found against him, he was apprehended by a judge's warrant, and detained in gaol there, till by a habeas corpus he was removed to Reading, in order to take his trial at Abingdon assizes, on the 22d of July, 1750. But though the prosecutors were ready with their witnesses, at a vast expence, yet he traversed the indictment, as by law he might, and put off his trial to the last Lent assizes held at Reading; where the facts already related being proved, he was sentenced to stand on the pillory the then next market-day, and to be transported for seven years. But the

ported without expense, in the house of one of the king's messengers, for the space of eighteen months.

Being released from the messenger's house, he revolved in his mind a variety of schemes for eluding the importunity of his creditors and at length determined to embark for Holland.

He remained in Holland a few months, and when his money was nearly expended he returned to England. A few days after his arrival in London, he went to a masquerade, where he engaged in play to the hazard of every shilling he possessed, and was so fortunate as to obtain a sufficient sum for his maintenance for several months.

His circumstances being again distressed, he wrote in pressing terms to his brother-in-law, who was an East-India director, intreating that he would procure him a commission in the company's service, either by land or sea. The purport of the answer was, that a gentleman in the Temple was authorised to give the supplicant a guinea, but that it would be fruitless for him to expect any further favours.

Having written a counterfeit draft, he went to Ranelagh on a masquerade night, where he passed it to a gentleman who had won some small sums of him. The party who received the draft offered it for payment in a day or two afterwards, when it was proved to be a counterfeit; in consequence of which Parsons was apprehended, and committed to Wood-street compter.

As no prosecutor appeared, Parsons was necessarily acquitted; but a detainer being lodged, charging him with an offence similar to the above, he was removed to Maidstone gaol, in order for trial at the Lent assizes at Rochester.

Mr. Carey, the keeper of the prison, treated Parsons with great humanity, allowing him to board in his family, and indulging him in every privilege that he could grant, without a manifest breach of the duties of his office. But such was the ingratitude of Parsons, that he formed a plan, which, had it taken effect, would have utterly ruined the man to whom he was indebted in such great

obligations. His intention was, privately to take the keys from Mr. Carey's apartment; and not only to escape himself, but even to give liberty to every prisoner in the gaol: and this scheme he communicated to a man accused of being a smuggler, who reported the matter to Mr. Carey, desiring him to listen at an appointed hour at night, when he would hear a conversation that would prove his intelligence to be authentic. Mr. Carey attended at the appointed time, and being convinced of the ingratitude and perfidy of Parsons, he abridged him of the indulgences he had before enjoyed, and caused him to be closely confined.

Being convicted at the assizes at Rochester, he was sentenced to transportation for seven years; and in the following September he was put on board the *Thames*, captain Dobbins, bound for Maryland, in company with upwards of one hundred and seventy other convicts, fifty of whom died in the voyage. In November, 1749, Parsons was landed at Annapolis, in Maryland; and having remained in a state of slavery about seven weeks, a gentleman of considerable property and influence, who was not wholly unacquainted with his family, compassionating his unfortunate situation; obtained his freedom, and received him at his house in a most kind and hospitable manner.

Parsons had not been in the gentleman's family many days before he rode off with a horse which was lent him by his benefactor, and proceeded towards Virginia; on the borders of which country he stopped a gentleman on horseback, and robbed him of five pistoles, a moidore, and ten dollars.

A few days after, he stopped a lady and gentleman in a chaise, attended by a negro servant, and robbed them of eleven guineas and some silver: after which he directed his course to the Potomack river, where finding a ship nearly ready to sail for England, he embarked, and after a passage of twenty-five days landed at Whitehaven.

He now produced a forged letter, in the name of one of his relations, to a capital merchant of Whitehaven,

signifying that he was entitled to the family estate, in consequence of his father's decease, and prevailed upon him to discount a false draft upon a banker in London for seventy-five pounds.

Upon his arrival in the metropolis, he hired a handsome lodging at the west end of the town; but he almost constantly resided in houses of ill fame, where the money he had so unjustifiably obtained was soon dissipated.

Having hired a horse, he rode to Hounslow-heath, where, between ten and eleven o'clock at night, he stopped a post-chaise, in which were two gentlemen, whom he robbed of five guineas, some silver, and a watch.

A short time afterwards he stopped a gentleman near Turnham-green, about twelve o'clock at night, and robbed him of thirty shillings, and a gold ring. He requested that the ring might be returned, as it was his wife's wedding ring. Parsons complied with the gentleman's request, and voluntarily returned the gentleman five shillings, telling him, at the same time, that nothing but the most pressing necessity could have urged him to the robbery: after which the gentleman shook hands with the robber, assuring him that, on account of the civility of his behaviour, he would not appear to prosecute, if he should hear of his being apprehended.

He attempted to rob a gentleman in a coach and four near Kensington, but hearing some company on the road, he proceeded towards Hounslow, and on his way thither overtook a farmer, and robbed him of between forty and fifty shillings. He then took the road to Colnbrook, and robbed a gentleman's servant of two guineas and a half, and a silver watch. After this he rode to Windsor, and returned to London by a different road.

His next expedition was on the Hounslow-road; and at the entrance of the heath he stopped two gentlemen, and robbed them of seven guineas, some silver and a curiously wrought silver snuff-box.

Returning to his lodgings near Hyde-park-corner one evening, he overtook a footman in Piccadilly, and joining company with him, a familiar conversation took place, in the course of which Parsons learnt that the other was

to set out early on the following Sunday with a portmanteau, containing cash and notes to a considerable value, the property of his master, who was then at Windsor.

On the Sunday morning he rode towards Windsor, intending to rob the footman. Soon after he had passed Turnham-green, he overtook two gentlemen, one of whom was Mr. Fuller, who had prosecuted him at Rochester, and who perfectly recollecting his person, warned him not to approach. He however paid no attention to what Mr. Fuller said, but still continued sometimes behind and sometimes before them, though at a very inconsiderable distance.

Upon coming into the town of Hounslow, the gentlemen alighted, and commanded Parsons to surrender, adding, that if he did not instantly comply, they would alarm the town. He now dismounted, and earnestly entreated that the gentlemen would permit him to speak to them in private which they consented to ; and the parties being introduced to a room at an inn, Parsons surrendered his pistols, which were loaded and primed, and supplicated for mercy in the most pathetic terms.

In all probability he would have been permitted to escape, had not Mr. Day, landlord of the Rose and Crown at Hounslow, come into the room, and advised that he might be detained, as he conceived him very nearly to answer the description of a highwayman by whom the roads in that part of the country had been long infested. He was secured at the inn till the next day, and then examined by a magistrate, who committed him to Newgate.

Parsons was now arraigned for returning from transportation before the expiration of the term of his sentence : nothing therefore was necessary to convict him but the identifying of his person. This being done, he received sentence of death. His distressed father and wife used all their interest to obtain a pardon for him, but in vain : he was an old offender, and judged by no means a fit object for mercy.

While Parsons remained in Newgate, his behaviour was such that it could not be determined whether he

entertained a proper idea of his dreadful situation. There is indeed but too much reason to fear that the hopes of a reprieve (in which he deceived himself even to the last moments of his life) induced him to neglect the necessary preparation for eternity.

His taking leave of his wife afforded a scene extremely affecting: he recommended to her parental protection his only child, and regretted that his misconduct had put it in the power of a censorious world to reflect upon both the mother and son.

He joined with fervent zeal in the devotional exercises, at the place of execution.

## THOMAS QUIN, JOSEPH DOWDELL, AND THOMAS TALBOT,

A GANG OF NOTORIOUS THIEVES,

*Executed at Tyburn, June 17, 1751, for Robbery.*

THE villanies disclosed in the following narrative, will shew the propriety of the law lately made for inflicting punishment on masters and mistresses giving false characters of servants.

Quin, a murderer in his own country, Ireland, was recommended to a person in London, as a youth of good morals; notwithstanding his abandoned disposition.

Dowdell, who, in his apprenticeship, had injured his first master, procured a recommendation to another, to whom he also proved a villain.

Talbot, the third of this dangerous gang, after having robbed on the highway, and being afraid of apprehension, on applying to be restored to honest servitude, was refused; but his master, in pity to his distresses, recommended him to a nobleman. Talbot, on the first opportunity, robbed his noble employer; and we would ask, whether the late master, knowing the servant to have

been a thief, was not, in recommending him to an honest employer, virtually the greater villain of the two?

In fine, they were all, from early youth, delinquents; and each had been imposed on honest people, by those who knew them to be such.

Quin was a native of Dublin, the son of poor, but honest parents; and his father dying while he was a child, his uncle put him to school, and afterwards placed him apprentice to a buckle-maker, with whom he served three years faithfully; but his friends supplying him with clothes too genteel for his rank in life, he began to associate with gay company, and was guilty of many irregularities.

These thoughtless youths were frequently concerned in riots, and Quin was considered as the head of the party. In one of these nocturnal insurrections, Quin murdered a man, whose friends, watching him to his master's house, desired that he might be delivered up to justice; but some of the journeymen sallied forth with offensive weapons, and drove off the people. A warrant being afterwards issued for apprehending the murderer, his master advised him to depart for England.

A subscription for his use being raised by his friends, he came to London, having recommendations to some gentlemen in that city; but of these he made no use, for frequenting the purlieus of St. Giles's, he spent his money amongst the lowest of his countrymen, and then entered on board a man of war.

After a service of six months, he quitted the ship at Leghorn, and sailed in another vessel to Jamaica, where he received his wages which he soon spent. He now agreed to work his passage to England, and the ship arriving in the port of London, he took lodgings in St. Giles's, and soon after became acquainted with Dowdell and Talbot, of whom we are now to give an account.

Dowdell was the son of a bookbinder in Dublin, who being in low circumstances, was unable to educate his children as he could have wished. His son Joseph, who was remarkable for the badness of his disposition, he apprenticed to a breeches-maker; but the graceless youth

grew weary of his place before he had served two years of his time.

Dowdell being ordered by his master to take proper care of some green leather, particularly to defend it from the show; instead of which he heaped such quantities of snow and ice on it, that it was greatly reduced in value. This circumstance so exasperated his master, that he was glad to get rid of him by delivering up his indentures of apprenticeship.

Thus at large, and the father ill able to support him, he was recommended to the service of a gentleman in the country, with whom he might have lived happily; but he behaved badly in his place, and running away to Dublin, commenced pickpocket.

After some practice in this way, he became connected with a gang of house-breakers, in company with whom he committed several depredations in Dublin. Having broke open a gentleman's house, he was opposed by the servants, and effected his escape only by the use he made of a hanger; soon after which he was taken by the watchmen, and being carried before a magistrate, he was committed to prison till the next morning. His person was advertised, and he was brought to trial; but none of the servants being able to swear to him, he was acquitted for want of evidence.

He now renewed his dangerous practices, and committed a variety of robberies. The following is one of the most singular of his exploits. Going to the house of a farmer, near Dublin, he pretended to be a citizen who wanted a lodging, for the benefit of his health, and would pay a liberal price. The unsuspecting farmer put his lodger into the best chamber, and supplied his table in the most ample manner.

After a residence of ten days, he asked the farmer's company to the town of Finglass, where he wanted to purchase some necessaries. The farmer attending him, Dowdell purchased some articles at different shops, in one of which he saw a quantity of gold in a till, and formed a resolution of appropriating it to his own use.

Having returned home with the farmer, Dowdell pre-

tended to recollect that he had omitted to purchase some medicines, which he must take that night, and which had occasioned his going to Finglass. Hereupon the farmer ordered a horse to be saddled, and Dowdell set forwards, on a promise to return before night.

On his arrival at Finglass, he put up his horse, and stealing unperceived into the shop above-mentioned, he stole the till with the money, and immediately set out for Dublin.

In the interim the farmer, missing his lodger went to Finglass, and not finding him there, proceeded to Dublin, where he chanced to put up his horse at the same inn where Dowdell had taken up his quarters.

In a short time he saw our adventurer with some dealers, to whom he would have sold the horse; on which the farmer procured a constable, seized the offender, and lodged him in prison.

For this presumed robbery (a real one, doubtless, in the intention) he was brought to trial; but it appearing that the farmer had entrusted him with the horse, he could be convicted of nothing more than a fraud, for which he received sentence of transportation.

The vessel in which he sailed being overtaken by a storm was dashed on the rocks of Cumberland, and many lives were lost; but several, among whom was Dowdell, swam on shore, and went to Whitehaven, where the inhabitants contributed liberally to their relief. Dowdell travelling to Liverpool, entered on board a privateer, which soon took several prizes, for which he received 60*l.* as his share. But this he soon squandered in the most thoughtless extravagance. Being reduced to poverty, he robbed a Portuguese gentleman; for which he was apprehended, but afterwards released on the intercession of the gentlemen of the English factory. He then sailed for England, and arrived at London.

He had not been long in the metropolis before he associated with a gang of pickpockets and street robbers (among whom was one Carter), whose practice it was to commit depredations at the doors of the theatres. Dowdell had not long entered into this association, before he

former part of this sentence was changed by the judge into three months imprisonment, for fear the populace, who were greatly enraged, should kill him.

[This prosecution produced two acts of parliament: one for remedying inconveniences that may happen by proceedings in actions on the statute of hue and cry, and the other to render prosecutions for perjury, and subornation of perjury more easy and effectual.]

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## A MURDER,

[Discovered by a Dream, in the Year 1751.]

*In consequence of which the Murderer was apprehended, convicted, and executed at Waterford, in Ireland.*

WE are not in the habit of paying attention to the many singular dreams which are related; but the following is so very remarkable, and so well authenticated, that we think it worthy of insertion.

One Adam Rogers, a creditable man, who kept a public-house at Portlaw, a small village, nine or ten miles from Waterford, in Ireland, dreamed one night, that he saw two men, at a particular green spot on an adjacent mountain; one of them a sickly looking man, the other remarkably strong and large. He then fancied that he saw the little man murder the other; and he awoke in great agitation. The circumstances of the dream were so distinct and forcible, that he continued much affected by them. He related them to his wife, and also to several neighbours, next morning. After some time, he went out coursing with greyhounds, accompanied amongst others, by one Mr. Browne, the Roman catholic priest of the parish. He soon stopped at the above-mentioned particular green spot on the mountain, and, calling to Mr. Browne, pointed it out to him, and told him what had appeared in his dream. During the remainder of

the day he thought little more about it. Next morning he was extremely startled at seeing two strangers enter his house about eleven o'clock in the forenoon. He immediately ran into an inner room, and desired his wife to take particular notice, for they were precisely the two men that he had seen in his dream.

When they had consulted with one another, their apprehensions were alarmed for the little weakly man, though contrary to the appearance in the dream. After the strangers had taken some refreshment, and were about to depart, in order to prosecute their journey, Rogers earnestly endeavoured to dissuade the little man from quitting his house, and going on with his fellow-traveller.

He assured him, that if he would remain with him that day, he would accompany him to Carrick next morning, that being the town to which the travellers were proceeding. He was unwilling and ashamed to tell the cause of his being so solicitous to separate him from his companion. But, as he observed that Hickey, which was the name of the little man, seemed to be quiet and gentle in his deportment, and had money about him, and that the other had a ferocious bad countenance, the dream still recurred to him. He dreaded that something fatal would happen, and he wished, at all events, to keep them asunder. However, the humane precautions of Rogers proved ineffectual; for Caulfield, such was the other's name, prevailed upon Hickey to continue with him on their way to Carrick, declaring that, as they had long travelled together, they should not part, but remain together until he should see Hickey safely arrive at the habitation of his friends. The wife of Rogers was much dissatisfied when she found they were gone, and blamed her husband exceedingly for not being absolutely peremptory in detaining Hickey.

About an hour after they left Portlaw, in a lonely part of the mountain, just near the place observed by Rogers in his dream, Caulfield took the opportunity of murdering his companion. It appeared afterwards, from his own account of the horrid transaction, that, as they were getting over a ditch, he struck Hickey on the back part of

his head with a stone ; and, when he fell down into the trench in consequence of the blow, Caulfield gave him several stabs with a knife, and cut his throat so deeply that the head was observed to be almost severed from the body. He then rifled Hickey's pockets of all the money in them, took part of his clothes, and every thing else of value about him, and afterwards proceeded on his way to Carrick. He had not been long gone when the body, still warm, was discovered by some labourers, who were returning to their work from dinner.

The report of the murder soon reached to Portlaw. Rogers and his wife went to the place, and instantly knew the body of him whom they had in vain endeavoured to dissuade from going on with his treacherous companion. They at once spoke out their suspicions that the murder was perpetrated by the fellow-traveller of the deceased. An immediate search was made, and Caulfield was apprehended at Waterford the second day after. He was brought to trial at the ensuing assizes, and convicted of the fact. It appeared on the trial, amongst other circumstances, that when he arrived at Carrick, he hired a horse, and a boy to conduct him, not by the usual road, but by that which runs on the north side of the river Suir to Waterford, intending to take his passage in the first ship from thence to Newfoundland. The boy took notice of some blood on his shirt, and Caulfield gave him half-a-crown to promise not to speak of it. Rogers proved not only that Hickey was seen last in company with Caulfield, but that a pair of new shoes, which Hickey wore, had been found on the feet of Caulfield when he was apprehended ; and that a pair of old shoes, which he had on at Rogers's house were upon Hickey's feet when the body was found. He described with great exactness every article of their clothes. Caulfield, on the cross-examination, shrewdly asked him from the dock, whether it was not very extraordinary that he, who kept a public-house, should take such particular notice of the dress of a stranger, accidentally calling there ? Rogers, in his answer, said, he had a very particular reason, but was ashamed to mention

it. The court and prisoner insisting on his declaring it, he gave a circumstantial narrative of his dream, called upon Mr. Browne the priest, who was then in the court, to corroborate his testimony, and said, that his wife had severely reproached him for permitting Hickey to leave their house when he knew that, in the short foot-way to Carrick, they must necessarily pass by the green spot in the mountain which had appeared in his dream. A number of witnesses came forward; and the proofs were so strong, that the jury, without hesitation, found the prisoner guilty.---It was remarked, as a singularity, that he happened to be tried and sentenced by his namesake, sir George Caulfield, at that time lord chief justice of the King's-bench, which office he resigned in the summer of the year 1760.

After sentence, Caulfield confessed the fact. It came out, that Hickey had been in the West Indies two and twenty years; but falling into a bad state of health, he was returning to his native country, Ireland, bringing with him some money his industry had acquired. The vessel on board which he took his passage was, by stress, of weather, driven into Minthead. He there met with Frederick Caulfield, an Irish sailor, who was poor, and much distressed for clothes and common necessities. Hickey, compassionating his poverty, and finding he was his countryman, relieved his wants, and an intimacy commenced between them. They agreed to go to Ireland together; and it was remarked on their passage, that Caulfield spoke contemptuously, and often said, it was a pity such a puny fellow as Hickey should have money, and he himself be without a shilling. They landed at Waterford, at which place they stayed some days, Caulfield being all the time supported by Hickey, who bought there some clothes for him.

The assizes being held in the town during that time, it was afterwards recollected that they were both at the court-house, and attended the whole of a trial of a shoemaker, who was convicted of the murder of his wife. But this made no impression upon the hardened mind of Caulfield; for the very next day he perpetrated the same

crime on the road betwixt Waterford and Carrick-on-Suir, near which town Hickey's relations lived.

He walked to the gallows with a firm step, and undaunted countenance. He spoke to the multitude who surrounded him ; and, in the course of his address, mentioned that he had been bred at a charter-school, from which he was taken, as an apprenticed servant, by William Izod, Esq. of the county of Kilkenny.

From this station he ran away on being corrected for some faults, and had been absent from Ireland six years. He confessed also, that he had several times intended to murder Hickey on the road between Waterford and Portlaw ; which, though in general not a road much frequented, yet, people at that time continually coming in sight, prevented him.

## JAMES WELCH AND THOMAS JONES,

*Executed on Kennington Common, September 6, 1751,  
for Murder.*

WE come now to the painful duty of proving the innocence of that most unhappy man, Richard Coleman, whom. our readers will recollect, suffered death for the supposed murder of Sarah Green. We have before related his melancholy case, and shall now detail the real circumstances of this horrid murder.

Two years had passed, after Coleman had been ignominiously laid in his grave, before his memory was rescued from disgrace. Circumstances then, and not before, arose, which proved, that James Welch, Thomas Jones, and John Nichols, the latter of whom was admitted an evidence for the crown, committed this shocking murder.

As Welch and a young fellow named James Bush were walking on the road to Newington Butts, their conversation happened to turn on the subject of those who had been executed without being guilty ; and Welch said, " Among whom was Coleman. Nichols, Jones,

and I were the persons who committed the murder for which he was hanged." In the course of conversation, Welch owned that, having been at a public-house called Sot's-hole, they had drank plentifully, and on their return through Kennington-lane, they met with a woman, with whom they went as far as the parsonage-walk, near the church-yard of Newington, where she was so horridly abused by Nichols and Jones, that Welch declined offering her any farther insult.

Bush did not at that time appear to pay any particular attention to what he heard ; but soon afterwards, as he was crossing London-bridge with his father, he addressed him as follows : " Father, I have been extremely ill ; and, as I am afraid I shall not live long, I should be glad to discover something that lays heavy on my mind."

Hereupon they went to a public-house in the Borough, where Bush related the story to his father, which was scarce ended, when seeing Jones at the window, they called him in, and desired him to drink with them.

He had not been long in company, when they told him they heard he was one of the murderers of Sarah Green, on whose account Coleman suffered death. Jones trembled and turned pale on hearing what they said ; but soon assuming a degree of courage, said, " What does it signify ? The man is hanged, and the woman dead, and nobody can hurt us ;" to which he added, " We were connected with a woman, but who can tell that was the woman Coleman died for ?"

In consequence of this acknowledgment, Nichols, Jones, and Welch were soon afterwards apprehended : when all of them steadily denied their guilt ; and the hear-say testimony of Bush being all that could be adduced against them, Nichols was admitted evidence for the crown : in consequence of which all the particulars of the horrid murder were developed.

The prisoners being brought to trial at the next assizes for the county of Surrey, Nichols deposed that himself with Welch and Jones, having been drinking at the house called Sot's-hole, on the night that the woman was used in such an inhuman manner, they quitted that house, in

order to return home, when meeting a woman, they asked her if she would drink ; which she declined, unless they would go to the king's-head, where she would treat them with a pot of beer.

Hereupon they went, and drank both beer and geneva with her, and then all the parties going forward to the personage-walk, the poor woman was treated in a manner too shocking to be described. It appeared that, at the time of the perpetration of the fact, the murderers wore white aprons ; and that Jones and Welch called Nichols by the name of Coleman : circumstances that evidently led to the prior conviction of that unfortunate man.

On the whole state of the evidence, there seemed to be no doubt of the guilt of the prisoners, so that the jury did not hesitate to convict them, and sentence of death passed of course.

After conviction these malefactors behaved with the utmost contrition, being attended by the Rev. Dr. Howard, rector of St. George's, Southwark, to whom they readily confessed their offences. They likewise signed a declaration, which they begged might be published, containing the fullest assertion of Coleman's innocence ; and, exclusive of his acknowledgment, Welch wrote to the brother of Coleman, confessing his guilt, and begging his prayers and forgiveness.

The sister of Jones living in the service of a genteel family at Richmond, he wrote to her to make interest in his favour ; but the answer he received was, that his crime was of such a nature, that she could not ask a favour for him with any degree of propriety. She earnestly begged of him to prepare for death, and implore pardon at that tribunal, where alone it could be expected.

## CAPTAIN JAMES LOWRY,

*Executed at Execution Dock, March 25, 1762, for murdering one of his Crew.*

THIS cruel man was born in Scotland, and after receiving a good school education, was, at his own earnest request, bound apprentice to a master of a vessel, to whom he served the time faithfully; and from his good conduct, soon himself became master of a ship.

He had just returned from Jamaica, with the charge of a West-India trader, when about the middle of the month of June, 1751, appeared in the daily papers, a remarkable advertisement, with ten signatures thereto, offering a reward of ten guineas for apprehending James Lowry, late master of the Molly, a merchant-ship, lately arrived from Jamaica, who was charged by ten of his crew, with the cruel murder of Kenith Hossack, foremast-man, in his passage home, on the 24th of December last, by ordering his two wrists to be tied to the main-shrouds, and then whipping him till he expired.

To this captain Lowry replied, by charging his crew with depriving him of his command of the said ship, on the 29th of the said month, and carrying her into Lisbon, where the British consul re-instated him in his command, and he sent the ten subscribing men home prisoners; and that he was ready to surrender when a court should be appointed for his trial, which nothing prevented him from doing immediately, but the thoughts of lying in gaol under the detestable name of an inhuman man.

The crew rejoined in another advertisement, that Lowry did not only murder the said Hossack, as appears by the affidavits of the ten subscribers, and sworn before John Russel, Esq. the British consul, at Lisbon, to be by him transmittted to the lords of the Admiralty, but in the said passage, did use Peter Bright and John Grace so cruelly that they died; and still continuing his barbarity, to every man in the ship, broke the jaw-bone and one of the fingers of William Dwight, and fractured the scull of William Wham.

They admitted that they (the subscribers) had been sent from Lisbon to England, by the said British consul ; but this was done in consequence of a pretended charge of piracy sworn against them by Lowry, as the only means he had to screen himself from justice ; for the sake of which, and to deter other masters of ships from exercising the like barbarities at sea, they repeated their reward, which they deposited in proper hands for apprehending the murderer.

These advertisements naturally excited public curiosity, and Lowry was apprehended and brought to trial at the Admiralty sessions at the Old Bailey, on the 18th of February, 1752, for the wilful murder of Kenneth Hossack.

James Gatherah, mate of the vessel, deposed, that they left Jamaica on the 28th of October, 1750, having on board fourteen hands ; that, on the 24th of December, he came on deck between four and five in the afternoon, and saw the deceased tied up, one arm to the haulyards, and the other to the main shrouds, when the prisoner was beating him with a rope, about an inch and a half in thickness. This deponent returning again in half an hour, the deceased begged to be let down on a call of nature ; the captain being now below, Gatherah obtained his permission to release him for the present, but was to tie him up again ; but when let down, he was unable to stand ; which being made known to Lowry, he said, " D---n the rascal, he shams Abraham ;" and ordered him again to be tied up. This was done ; but he was not made so fast as before, which the captain observing, ordered his arms to be extended to the full stretch, and taking the rope, beat him on the back, breast, head, shoulders, face, and temples, for about half an hour, occasionally walking about to take breath.

About six o'clock he hung back his head, and appeared motionless ; on which Lowry ordered him to be cut down, and said to Gatherah, " I am afraid Kenny is dead." Gatherah replied, " I am sorry for it, but hope not." Gatherah then felt his pulse ; but finding no motion there, or at his heart, said, " I am afraid he is dead, indeed ;" on which the captain gave the deceased

a slap on the face, and exclaimed, "D---n him, he is only shamming Abraham now."

On this the deceased was wrapped up in a sail, and carried to the steerage, where Lowry whetted a penknife, and Gatherah attempted to bleed him, but without effect.

Gatherah deposed further, that the deceased had been ill of a fever, but was then recovering, and though not well enough to go aloft, was able to do many parts of his duty.

Gatherah likewise deposed to the tyranny and cruelty of the captain to the whole ship's company, except one James Stuart; and gave several instances of his inhumanity, particularly that of his beating them with a stick which he called "the royal oak's foremast."

It was asked of Gatherah, why Lowry was not confined till the 29th of December, as the murder took place on the 24th? to which he answered, that the ship's crew had been uneasy, and proposed to confine the captain; but that he (Gatherah) represented the leaky condition of the ship, which made it necessary that two pumps should be kept going, night and day; and the ship's crew were so sickly, that not a hand could be conveniently spared; that he believed the captain would be warned by what he had done, and treat the rest of the crew better, during the remainder of the voyage; that Lowry could not escape while on the voyage, and that, on their arrival in England, he might be charged with the murder before any magistrate.

The seamen were satisfied by these arguments; but Lowry continuing his severities, it was determined to deprive him of his command, and confine him to the cabin. At length the ship became so leaky, that they did not expect to live from night till morning; and the men quitted the pumps, and took a solemn farewell of each other: but Gatherah advised them to renew their endeavours to save the vessel, and to steer for the port of Lisbon.

This advice was followed; and having arrived off the rock of Lisbon, they hoisted a signal for a pilot, and one coming off in a fishing-boat, found that they had no pro-

duct,\* on which he declined conducting them into port ; but by this pilot the captain sent a letter to the British consul, informing him that the crew had mutinied : on which the consul came on board, put ten of the seamen under an arrest, and sent them to England.

The account given by Gatherah to the consul corresponded with that he had given in evidence at the Old Bailey. During the voyage, the crew of Lowry's ship worked their passage ; and, on their arrival in England, though they were committed to the keeper of the Marshalsea prison, yet they had liberty to go out when they pleased ; and considered themselves only as evidences against Lowry.

The rest of the crew, who were examined on the trial, gave testimony corresponding with that of Gatherah ; and declared that the deceased was sober and honest. Some questions were asked, if they thought Lowry's ill treatment was the occasion of Hossack's death. They replied there was no doubt of it ; " that it would have killed him had he been in good health and strength, or the stoutest man living ; and that he generally beat them with a thick oak stick, which he exultingly called, his royal oak's foremast."

It may be proper to mention that Lowry, having taken men on board to work his ship to England, arrived soon after his accusers ; but they having given previous information to the lords of the admiralty, a reward was offered for apprehending him : he remained some time concealed ; but at length he was discovered by a thief-taker, who took him into custody, and received ten guineas from the marshal of the admiralty.

The prisoner in his defence said, that his crew were a drunken set of fellows, that they altered the ship's course and were mutinous ; that the deceased had stolen a bottle of rum and drank it, whereby he became intoxicated, that he tied him up to the rails to sober him, and that he flourished a rope three times round, and gave him a few strokes which could not hurt him, that he fell through drunkenness, and he did all he could to recover him.

\* That is, they had no effects to dispose of.

After the evidence was recapitulated by the judge, the jury retired for about half an hour, and then delivered their verdict, that the prisoner was guilty; on which he received sentence of death, and orders were given for his being hung in chains.

After conviction, Lowry behaved with great apparent courage and resolution, till a smith came to take measure of him for his chains; when he fainted away, and fell on his bed, and was measured while insensible. On his recovery, he said that it was the disgrace of a public exposure that had affected him, and not the fear of death.

On the 25th of March, at half past nine in the morning, the unfortunate convict was brought out of Newgate, to undergo the sentence of the law; on seeing the cart which was to convey him to the gallows, he became pale but soon recovered a degree of serenity of countenance. He had on a scarlet cloak over a morning gown, and a brown wig, of the colour of his eye-brows. His eyes were very bright and piercing, his features regular and agreeable, and by no means evinced the cruelty of his disposition. He was, in stature, about five feet seven inches, very well proportioned, and about forty years of age. His behaviour was quite composed and undaunted. Before the cart was carried a silver oar of a very antique form.

The dreadful procession had not moved many yards, before the populace began to express their indignation at the culprit. Some sailors cried out, "Where is your royal oak's foremast?" others vociferated, "He is shamming Abraham;" and with such tauntings and revilings was he drawn to Execution Dock; near which a number of sailors being collected, they poured execrations on his devoted head.

He was then taken out of the cart, and placed upon a scaffold under the gallows, where he put on a white cap. He prayed very devoutly with the ordinary of Newgate, about a quarter of an hour; then giving the executioner his money and watch, the platform fell. After hanging twenty minutes, the body was cut down, put into a boat, and carried to Blackwall, and there hung in chains, on the bank of the Thames.

## WILLIAM STROUD,

[A notorious Swindler,]

*Six Times whipped through the Streets of Westminster,  
in the Month of March, 1752.*

THIS specious robber was well born and educated ; but very early in life took to little tricks of cheating, which sufficiently marked his character. When but a school-boy, he used to purloin blank leaves from the books of his companions, and was remarkable for robbing them of their marbles.

This disposition continued while he was an apprentice ; and at length he embarked in business for himself : but he had not been long a master before he considered trade as a drudgery ; on which he sold off his stock, took lodgings in Bond-street, and assumed the character of a fine gentleman.

He now lived in a most expensive manner, supplying the extravagances of women of ill-fame ; which soon reducing him to indigent circumstances, he fixed on a plan of defrauding individuals ; for which purpose he got credit with a taylor for some elegant suits of apparel, took a genteel house, and hired some servants, by which he imposed himself upon the public as a man of large estate.

An extensive credit, and a splendid mode of living, was the consequence of his elegant appearance ; but some tradesmen bringing in bills which he was equally unable and unwilling to discharge, he sold off his household furniture, and privately decamped.

He now took handsome lodgings in Bloomsbury ; and dressing himself in velvet clothes, he pretended to be the steward of a nobleman of high rank. He likewise took a house in Westminster, in which he placed an agent, who ordered in goods as for the nobleman ; and the tradesmen who delivered these goods were directed to leave their bills for the examination of the steward ; but the effects were no sooner in possession, than they were

sold to a broker, to the great loss of the respective tradesmen.

Stroud used to travel into the country in summer, and having learnt the names of London traders with whom people of fortune dealt, he used to write in their names for goods ; but constantly meeting the waggons that conveyed them, generally received the effects before they reached the places to which they were directed.

It would be endless to mention all the frauds of which he was guilty. London and the country were equally laid under contribution by him : and jewellers, watch-makers, lacemen, taylor, drapers, upholders, silversmiths, silk-merciers, hatters, hosiers, &c. were frequent dupes to his artifices.

It was impossible for a man, proceeding in this manner, to evade justice. He was at length apprehended as a common cheat, and committed to the Gatchouse, Westminster. On his examination, a coach-maker charged him with defrauding him of a gilt chariot, a jeweller, of rings to the amount of a hundred pounds ; a taylor, of a suit of velvet trimmed with gold ; a cabinet-maker, of some valuable goods in his branch ; and several other tradesmen, of various articles.

The grand jury having found bills of indictment against him, he was tried at the Westminster sessions ; when clouds of witnesses who had been duped and plundered by him appeared to give their evidence ; and he was instantly found guilty.

The court sentenced him to hard labour in Bridewell, for six months, and in that time to be whipped through the streets six times ; which was inflicted with the severity which they intended.

ELIZABETH JEFFERIES, THE MURDERER OF  
HER UNCLE, AND JOHN SWAN, HER ACCOM-  
PLICE,

*Executed March 5, 1752, on Epping Forest.*

THIS dreadful case, we are sorry to observe, evinces such vile ingratitude, and determined cruelty in a young female, as have not been exceeded in the most hardened villain, in this long and melancholy catalogue.

Strong suspicions of this murder falling upon Miss Jefferies and Swan, they were apprehended and brought to trial at Chelmsford assizes, the 12th of March, 1752.

The counsel for the crown opened the case thus : "The unfortunate person deceased had been in considerable trade, and had acquired such an ample fortune as to enable him to retire to Walthamstow. The only thing he wanted to complete his happiness was a child, to be the companion of his age, a partaker of his fortune while living, and an inheritor of it after his death. Accordingly, he took his brother's daughter, the prisoner at the bar, treated her like his own child, and left her by will almost his whole estate. He frequently mentioned this as an inducement to her to be dutiful ; but when she became negligent in her behaviour, he declared his intention to alter his will, if she did not alter her conduct. This she determined to prevent by compassing his death. The other prisoner at the bar, to whom the deceased had been a very kind master, till he was offended at his familiarity with his niece, meditated this villany in conjunction with her, and they found a simple fellow, one Matthews, that Mr. Jefferies had employed, whom they thought a proper person to accomplish their villany. This man for a time rejected their proposals, till at last promises of a considerable reward staggered him, but did not produce the desired effect ; for when the execution was to be performed, the favours he had received, from his master obliged him to refuse it, and neither threats, nor abuses, nor temptations could tempt him to alter his resolution.

The court then proceeded to examine witnesses, and Edward Buckle, a neighbour, being first called, deposed, that July 3, about two in the morning, he heard Miss Jefferies make an outcry; when, getting up, he went to her, and found her in her shift without shoe or stocking, at a neighbour's door, about twenty yards from her uncle's house, crying out, "Oh! they have killed him, they have killed him, I fear. Go, see after my uncle." That he then desired her to go and put something about her, but she replied, "Don't mind me, see after my uncle;" he then went, and John Swan unlocking or unbolting the door on the inside, he went in, Swan saying, "Go up, and see after my master, whom I fear some cruel rogues have killed." He found the deceased lying on his right side, with three wounds on the left side of his head; that then taking hold of his left hand, he said, "If you cannot speak to me, signify it to me;" that he then squeezed his hand, but did not speak. That Miss Jefferies, after some time, said to this witness, Mr. Buckle, will you go and lay information about the country of this unhappy affair? He said he would; and if, added he, I light of Matthews I'll take him up. She replied, Mr. Buckle, don't meddle with him, for you will bring me into trouble, and yourself too. Here Miss Jefferies interrupted the witness a second time, and said, "Are you positive? look to the jury: take care what you say; you are on your oath."

Thomas Matthews already mentioned deposed, that he had worked for Mr. Jefferies nine days, only for his bread; that once Miss Jefferies ordered him up stairs to wipe down a chest of drawers, that she came up just after, and said, "What will you do to get one hundred pounds?" He asked her what he was to do for it? she asked again, "If he was willing to do it?" he said, yes, in an honest way. She bid him go to John Swan in the garden, and he would tell him what it was. He went to him, when John smiled, and called him into an out-house, and told him that if he would knock that old miser his master on the head, he would give him 700*l.* and Miss Jefferies heard all: she said she would see the money paid, and that she should not have a moment's peace,

while that miser was living. That after he was discharged from Mr. Jefferies, Swan shewed him the pistols, he said, he had bought to shoot his master, as he took a walk in the evening. That he once gave him half-a-guinea to buy a case of pistols to shoot Mr. Jefferies as he came home from Chelsea with one Mr. Gallant ; but instead of buying the pistols, he went to the Green Man, at Low Layton, and spent the money. They had several interviews, and at last he agreed to come on Tuesday, July 2, at about ten at night, to the backside of Mr. Jefferies's garden, and Swan would give him some money to knock the old miser on the head, in the hearing of Miss Jefferies. He accordingly came to the garden, and thence into the pantry, where he stood behind a tub, till Swan came to him, and gave him some cold beef. Both Swan and Miss Jefferies came to him about twelve o'clock, and said, " Now's the time to knock your master on the head : " he said, he could not find in his heart to do it ; on which Miss Jefferies damned him for a villain, because he would not perform his promise ; and Swan damned his blood, and pulling a book out of his pocket made him swear not to discover what had passed, otherwise he would blow his brains out ; on this, witness said, he would not, except he was in danger of his life. They then parted, and went up stairs ; and half an hour afterwards, he heard a pistol go off, and hastened out of the house the backway. Being asked, whether he promised to commit the murder ? he said, he did, near Walthamstow church, and that Swan said, " If this witness would not do it, by G---d, he or somebody must do it ; for Miss Jefferies was big with child, and if the old miser should know it, they should be both banished the house."

Mr. Forbes, surgeon, deposed, that he observed Mr. Jefferies's wounds, and the blood about the floor : that he examined the wounds, and found two, one with a gun, or pistol, on the left side of his face, and the other by a knife, which he took to be mortal, it being a stab in the ear of about four inches deep : there was a knife on the floor with a sharp point. He added, that Swan had a clean shirt on that morning.

Sarah Arnold, maid-servant, deposed, that the night before, Mrs. Martin and her children supped at her master's, when John Swan waited at table; that between eleven and twelve o'clock, Swan and Miss Jefferies went out and returned in a quarter of an hour, when John Swan, who was pretty much in liquor, went to bed without asking leave, and Miss Jefferies coming in, pressed her uncle, in a very particular manner, to go to bed, and the company to go away; and half an hour after her master was in bed, she went up stairs, having first, by her master's orders, fastened all the doors. That they had cold boiled beef in the house; that Miss Jefferies lay in a room divided from her uncle's by a very thin partition, which had a hole in it, and Swan lay on the same floor. That about three o'clock she heard an alarm, and looking out of the window, saw Miss Jefferies in the yard; that she then called to Swan, and asked where her master was: he said, he believed he was a-bed and murdered: she then ran directly into her master's chamber, and found him on his back, his legs drawn up, and rattling in the throat, and putting her hand on his wounds found the blood quite congealed: on the floor by the bedside lay her master's knife, which the day before had been left on the bench at the garden door. She afterwards saw the pistol, which had burst into several pieces; she found the back door open that goes into the yard, but did not observe that the house had been broke open: one of the pistols that used to hang over the fire-place in the kitchen was also gone, and some chips of the bullets lay about the kitchen floor. Being asked, whether she had observed any disagreement between her master and Miss Jefferies? she replied, that her master did not like her so often conversing with Swan, as people took notice of it; he was displeased at her manner of life, and threatened to turn her out of doors. She heard him tell Mrs. Martin, in Miss Jefferies's hearing, that he would alter his will, and make Joe Martin his heir, though she had before heard him say, that all he had in the world was hers. When her master threatened her, she seemed to be uneasy, but she never heard her make him any answer.

Being asked, if she knew where her master's will used to be kept? she said, in a little box in an iron chest, by his bedside, and that box was gone that very morning.

Elizabeth Gallant deposed, that in about an hour and a half after she came, which was soon after the murder, Miss Jefferies called to Mrs. Buckle, to go into Mr. Jefferies's room, take the box of writings, carry them into her room, lock the door, and bring her the key.

Jeffery Mead deposed, that he looked about the house, and saw only the bar of one window at the back door bent, but the lead as regularly untwisted, as if by a glazier, and that he apprehended it was done by some of the family; that he desired John Swan to give him a rake, and shew him the pond, where they might make a search; and in searching, they found a new sack with some pewter and brass in it. When Miss Jefferies was apprehended, this witness said, she hoped they would not use her ill, for she had given Mr. Smart a five hundred pound bank note that day; and, said she, to let all the world know that Mr. Jefferies did not lose his life to wrong Mrs. Martin's children (putting her hand into her bosom, and pulling out a one hundred pound bank-note), here, Mrs. Martin, I give you this for you and your children.

Richard Clark deposed, that between two and three he heard the outcry, Murder! Fire! Thieves! and saw Miss at the window over the door, and Swan in the court: Miss said, "Make all the haste you can, for there are thieves in the house, and I am afraid my uncle is murdered." Swan said, he believed they got in at the window, and out at the door backwards; but on examining the window and door, he found nothing broke, nor the least track of feet in the garden, though it was a dewy morning. He deposed farther, that about a quarter of a year before the murder, Swan called on him to take a walk to fetch a horse, and that coming back by my lord Castlemain's, he asked him, if he were a hearty man, sufficient to shoot any thing? to which he answered, that he was no sportsman, and could not shoot well;

when Swan said, if he was, he could help him to fifty pounds and a horse to ride on.

John Ball gave evidence that he went into the room with Mr. Tipping, the apothecary, and drew near to Mr. Jefferies, and said to him, "My dear Sir, I am sorry to see this; if you think you know who did it, hold up your hand:" with that he held up his left hand, dropping out of it a handkerchief with which he had been dabbing his wounds.

The prisoners being called upon to make their defence, Miss Jefferies said, she concluded that most of them were perjured, and that she left her cause to her counsel; but John Swan called witnesses.

First, Elizabeth Diaper deposed, that she lived a few yards from Mr. Jefferies, and was alarmed that morning by Miss Jefferies, who cried, "Diaper, Diaper, for God's sake come, there are rogues in the house, and they are going to set it on fire." When she came, the maid was sitting on the garret window with her right thigh on the window board, and her hand on her thigh, saying, there are thieves in the house; she raised the street, and coming to the gate, saw Miss Jefferies and Mrs. Buckle; she asked Miss Jefferies how she got out? she said out of the window, and called out, "See where my uncle is, Oh! for God's sake, my uncle and Joe Martin." John Swan, opened the door, and came out directly.

Here this witness fainting was obliged to be carried out of court.

John Diaper, her husband, added to what his wife had said, that taking the alarm and hastening, he saw Miss Jefferies half way out of window before he went down stairs; being asked the height of the window above ground, he said, between ten and eleven feet, with a covering over the door called a pent-house, about five feet from the ground; he hastened down stairs, took a bill, and when he came to the door, turned about, and saw Miss Jefferies standing at his door in her shift barefooted, and very much affrighted. Being asked by the prisoner's counsel, whether her terror seemed to be real? he said, he did believe her to be really affrighted. The prisoner's

counsel, asking how did Swan appear to be? he said, very much affrighted, and crying he had rather have died with his master. Being asked again, whether the linen of Swan, or Miss Jefferies, were bloody? he said no: or, whether they were clean? he said, they seemed to have been lain in, neither being clean.

Miss Jefferies fainted away at this time, and continued in convulsions near forty minutes.

Elizabeth Diaper being recovered, was brought again into court, and confirmed the former evidence, as to the shirt and shift of the prisoners being free from blood, and said further, that she generally nursed Mr. Jefferies in his illness, and observed Miss very kind to him; and that John Swan had often fetched Mr. Jefferies home from Chelsea, the forest, and elsewhere, at all hours.

Mary Buckle, who lived in the same court with Mr. Jefferies, deposed, that on Wednesday morning between two and three o'clock, she heard a calling out, "I am afraid the house is on fire." When she came into the court, Miss Jefferies was falling from the window; she asked her the reason, and was answered, Don't mind me, seek after my uncle; some men are gone down stairs, crying, "Damnation to the old rogue, we have done all the mischief we could, and now we'll set the house on fire."

Catherine Griffiths said, she heard the alarm, and when Miss Jefferies came into the room, she said, "Dear uncle, if you can speak, speak to me; if you know me, make motions," and he made none; that he died at eight or nine in the evening, while Miss Jefferies was in the room.

Robert Clifton, apothecary, deposed, that John Swan came to him about ten in the morning, and desired him to hasten, for he feared his master was murdered; that Miss Jefferies asked if any help could be had in London, if there could she desired he might have it; that a surgeon there imagined he might be dead before any help could come: that he really believed the hand which discharged the pistol must be wounded by the bursting of it; that John Swan was not wounded, and therefore he thought

he did not discharge the pistol; and that he had frequently taken Mr. Jefferies out at the request of Miss, that she might receive or pay a visit; that if John Swan were inclined to hurt his master, he had many better opportunities, when he often came home with him in dark nights; that he once fell off his horse's neck into a pond, and Swan saved him, for which he was always kind to him.

The counsel for the prosecution then observed, that the pistol being a long one, as appeared from the length of the rammer, produced in court, and also the shattered remains of the pistol, and that part where the lock was fixed being entire, the hand that discharged it might not be hurt.

Being asked by the king's counsel, if he had not received a sum of money from the prisoner that morning? his son, he said, had received a twenty-pound note, in part of a former debt of twenty-two pounds, for goods sold and delivered.

Sir Samuel Gower witnessed, that he had Matthews under examination four or five times before him, and Mr. Bateman and Mr. Quarrel; that he gave different accounts, and that this witness told him, that he could put no confidence in his evidence; he prevaricated so much, that he suffered him to sign two of his examinations, and when any thing was said of murdering Mr. Jefferies, he always said, he was offered money to do it.

Mr. Quarrel deposed, that Matthews differed in the latter part of his account, but as to his saying he was hired, he kept to that all the time of his examination.

J. Warriner deposed, that on Matthews's first examination, he said he knew nothing of the murder, nor did he hear of it before he was taken: at his second examination he contradicted himself, and said, what he told before was a lye. This witness being desired to go into another room to take his confession, did so, and confessed that he was hired, and was to have 700*l.* for the murder.

The prisoners making no farther defence, nor speaking a word in their own behalf, the judge, after summing up the evidence, observed, that though the principal evidence

might be represented as prevaricating in some particulars, yet when his evidence was corroborated by so many other strong evidences, it could not be disputed.

The jury then retired, and after staying about an hour, brought in the prisoners—Guilty.

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*The Confession of Elizabeth Jefferies, concerning the murder of her Uncle, Joseph Jefferies, after she received sentence of death.*

“ I, Elizabeth Jefferies, do freely and voluntarily confess, That I first enticed and persuaded John Swan and Thomas Matthews, to undertake and perpetrate the murder of my deceased uncle, which they both consented to do, the first opportunity. That, on the third day of July, 1751, myself and John Swan (Matthews, to my knowledge, not being in the house) agreed to kill my said uncle; and accordingly, after the maid was gone to bed, I went into John Swan’s room, and called him, and we went down together into the kitchen, and having assisted Swan in putting some pewter and other things, into a sack, I said I could do no more, and then I went into my room; and afterwards Swan came up, as I believe, and went into my uncle’s room, and shot him; which done, he came to my door, and rapped. Accordingly, I went out in my shift, and John Swan opened the door, and let me out; that done, I alarmed the neighbourhood. And I do solemnly declare, that I do not know that any person was concerned in the murder of my deceased uncle, but myself and John Swan: for that Matthews did not come to my uncle’s house the day before, or night, in which the murder was committed, as I know of.

“ ELIZABETH JEFFERIES.”

*Taken and acknowledged March 12, 1742.*

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Miss Jefferies fainted under the gallows, and was not recovered, when she was launched into eternity. Her body was delivered to her friends; but that of Swan was hung in chains, in another part of the forest.

## NICHOLAS MOONEY AND JOHN JONES,

*Executed at Bristol, May 24, 1752, for Highway Robbery.*

NICHOLAS MOONEY being no less notorious for his sincere penitence and happy death than for his repeated acts of criminality and violence, we shall exceed the limits to which we are usually confined in recording the cases of so many offenders, and present to our readers some extracts from a life written by himself, while under sentence of condemnation, at the Newgate in Bristol.

“ I thought it necessary to give a particular account of myself; and this I do, not to satisfy the curious part of mankind, but to stir up all men to repent, and believe in Jesus Christ; to shew that I readily own the justice of the sentence passed upon me, and above all, to magnify the wisdom, justice, and mercy of Almighty God, who has made a notorious offender a public example to the world, and at the same time a happy monument of his amazing love and free grace to *the worst of sinners*.

“ Whatever other names I have at any time taken upon myself, my real name is Nicholas Mooney. My father, John Mooney, who kept a large dairy farm, and was likewise a master gardener, lived in good credit at Regar, near Refarman, within two miles of Dublin, in Ireland, where I was born, July 10, 1721.

“ I lived at home with my father, till I was about fifteen years of age : in the mean time, I was put to school, and had the benefit of a tolerable education. About sixteen, I was put apprentice to Andrew Muckleworth, a paper-maker at Glassneven, one mile from Dublin. After I had served near a year of my time, a quarrel happened between me and one William Reney, a journeyman that worked for my master, whom I almost killed, by giving him a violent blow on the head with a stone. This brought upon me the dislike of my master and mistress, which I was impatient to bear; whereupon I packed up my clothes, together with a prayer-book that belonged to

my master's daughter, the Whole Duty of Man, and a pair of stockings that were my master's, and ran away by night to Drogheda, about twenty miles off; where I was known and entertained by an acquaintance of my father's. This inconsiderate action paved the way for all the after extravagancies of my life.

"The fear of being apprehended by my master prevented my staying long at Drogheda: I therefore sold my working clothes, and the books I had purloined, and then embarked for Liverpool in Lancashire. After we were put to sea, a violent storm arose, which detained us at sea some days, expecting every moment to be cast away. The ship was stripped of her masts and rigging, and all were carried off. The swelling of the sea was so great, that the sailors were obliged to tie themselves with ropes to the ship, to prevent their being washed overboard. Being driven near the Isle of Man, there was the utmost danger of being lost off Douglas-bay. One signal instance of Providence, though it does not concern me, I will relate :---a boy, who came with some liquor to give the sailors to refresh them, was washed overboard, and afterwards thrown on board again. On the fifth day, the tempest abated. We then took in a pilot from Douglas, who carried us safe in our shattered vessel into that harbour.

"Not being ready to go with the ship, it sailed without me, and I was left in Douglas, where I stayed three weeks, and then embarked in another ship, and had a fair passage to Liverpool. From thence I proceeded to London, and worked in Kent-street-road as a gardener. Being of an unsettled disposition I did not continue long in this situation.

"After some time I took to work again, and wrought at Mr. Nelson's, a sugar-baker, near Thames-street, London. I had been here but a short time, before I was discharged on suspicion of a criminal intrigue with a servant-maid in the family; but I soon after got a place at Mr. Shoemaker's, a sugar-baker in Lemon-street, where I continued some time. From thence I went to Mr. Cooper's, in Old Fish-street, where I made love to my

master's sister, which coming to his ear, he discharged me from his service, before I had been there quite a year. My mind was then bent on roving again, and I went and enlisted into captain Cunningham's company, in the train of artillery at Greenwich, by the name of Nicholas Moon. From thence I went for Scotland, this being the time the rebellion broke out there; but afterwards I joined the rebel party, and continued in the service of the Pretender, till his defeat and escape to France.

"It will easily be imagined, that all this while I gave up myself to all those vices, for which the soldiery in general are so notoriously infamous. But notwithstanding the impious life I led, my conscience was often roused with the accuser in my own breast. This sometimes made me think of breaking off my evil course of life, and I would set about a reformation. Divers times did I in a formal manner repent and sin, and repent and sin again: and when I have happened in company where religious people have been discoursing, I have made vows and resolutions of a new life, and afterwards wrote them down in a book that I might not forget them. But, alas! what are man's best resolutions when he does not look to God for his gracious assistance!

"Soon after leaving the Pretender, I returned to England, and pursued my way to Exeter; where I got acquainted with a shopkeeper's daughter, to whom I pretended love, and having ingratiated myself into her favour, I borrowed money of her, and set out in order to go to London. But first I swore I would return and marry her.

"In my way to London, I met with an honest, virtuous young woman, whose father was a farmer of good circumstances, in Wiltshire. I cast my vulture's eye upon her, as a destined prey. I attired myself in a gay manner; and, in the appearance of a gentleman, paid my addresses to her, making her believe I was a man of fortune, and by this and other devilish artifices I gained her consent to be married. We went together to London, where I took her to the Fleet and married her. I had one child by her, which dying unbaptised, though I was

such an abandoned wretch, gave me no little concern.— How cautious ought every young woman to be what company she goes into, especially with whom she contracts a familiarity! What calamities have young people brought upon their friends, what misery and distress upon themselves, by giving too easy credit to appearances!

“After I had spent what money I had with this wife, I applied myself to work at gardening again; but my income not being sufficient to support my extravagancies, I took to coining half-crowns and shillings, in moulds of my own making. I had not followed this practice long, before I was overheard by some in the house as I was at work, who suspected what I was doing, and threatened to inform against me; whereupon I threw away my moulds, and left off coining. But my leaving off one vice was but to make way for another.

“I now resolved to take to the highway; accordingly, I equipped myself with a brace of pistols, and set out. The first I robbed was a gentleman going to Deptford. Then I robbed a man and his wife at Hyde Park corner: the woman’s pocket I snatched from her side. After this I got two accomplices, and we committed a great many robberies in and about London. Among the many others, we set upon a gentleman belonging to the play-house, near a watch-house in London. One kept the watchman in the house, while the other two committed the robbery. The gentleman had his sword drawn in his hand, with which he stabbed me in the side: however I got his sword from him, and made off with it. Soon after, I was taken up for this robbery, and carried before a magistrate, who committed me to Clerkenwell bridewell. At the next sessions of the Old Bailey, I was tried and condemned to die by my right name of Nicholas Mooney.

“My carelessness at this time was in a great measure owing to the expectation I had of a reprieve; of this I seemed almost confident, my wife, who shewed herself a true friend to me in the time of my necessity, notwithstanding my baseness to her, assuring me, that I should

not die. I was respited several times. At last justice Fielding's brother came to me a few days before the day of execution, and desired me to tell him ingenuously and truly, whether those three men I had impeached were guilty? I confidently affirmed they were; though I knew it to be false. I pray God make them amends for the wrong I did them, I cannot.—After this, Mr. Fielding became my friend, and through his and the favour of sir J. Ligonier, a pardon was procured for me.

“ When I had gotten my liberty, I waited on general Ligonier, to return him thanks for his favour, who gave me a guinea. I then took to work again at gardening, and had a very good place: but it happened, after I had been there for some time, that, being drinking in a public-house with my master's brother, a quarrel broke out in the company between another man and me, and I, as concerned in the riot, was sent to the New Gaol, Southwark. From hence I was carried to Guildford gaol, and after some time released.

“ During the time I was under confinement at Guildford, I contracted an acquaintance with two poor creatures like myself: with these I agreed, that if we were acquitted, we would all take to the highway together; and we did not fail of our word: many were the robberies we committed in and about London, I was at last wounded in attempting to rob a gentleman near the half-way house going to Kensington. One of my accomplices was taken and afterwards hanged. Upon his impeachment (oh! what a rope of sand is the confederacy of the wicked!) my other companion and I were forced to fly. I bent my course to the west, having first bought me a very long knife, either to defend myself, or rob withal, and got to Salisbury, disguised in a sailor's habit. There I became acquainted with one who was formerly a carpenter in the French service. With him I set out for Exeter, and on the road asked him to rob a gentleman, but he was afraid, and would not consent. When we came to Exeter, he made information against me for advising him to rob, and moreover took an oath that I was an outlawed smuggler; whereupon I was apprehended

and committed to prison. On my examination I swore, that my name was John Jackson, and that I was born at Prescott in Lancashire. This is the only time that I ever got any advantage by changing my name ; but now it stood me instead, for by this means I got clear of out-lawry, and was also acquitted of the other indictment, and set at liberty.

“ Being discharged, I went to Taunton, in Somersetshire, and got work at gardening, and at leisure times painted pictures, and sold them ; for I had made some proficiency in painting and drawing patterns for needle-work. Here I assisted in making a new garden for a gentleman, and by this means got acquainted with several noted gentlemen’s gardeners, and by one of them was recommended to Esquire P——r, of Fairfield, near Stokegussey, where I lived about three quarters of a year. My outward demeanour here was such as gained me respect, and none suspected what my former life had been, yet all the while my heart was going after its lusts. During my stay here, I contracted an intimacy with a virtuous young woman that was my fellow-servant : and (let me here ask pardon of God and her, which I do from the ground of my heart) I ensnared her affections, and debauched her. After I had lived in sin with her some time, I began to fear, lest she should prove with child, and be brought to disgrace ; I therefore resolved to have no more criminal conversation with her ; and that I might be afraid to break my resolution, I went the Sunday following to church, and took the sacrament upon it : but how weak are the resolves of feeble man, without the strength of God ! My passion soon grew too strong for my reason and resolution. I relapsed, and it happened according to my fears ; the poor, ruined creature proved with child.

“ When I found this poor creature advancing in her pregnancy, I resolved to leave my place. I communicated to her my intention of going away, and, to make her easy, swore I would return and marry her. I had lately received half a year’s wages, and with that I set out for Bristol, and got work there at Messrs. Hillhouse

and Stevens's sugar-house, where I wrought for some time, and was well-beloved, though I so ill deserved it. Here it was I became acquainted with my unhappy companion and fellow-sufferer John Jones. It happened that Jones fell into company with one that was a noted boxer, who challenged him to box him, which challenge Jones accepted. He afterwards came and acquainted me with the affair, and desired me to second him. I refused, saying, I did not like fighting upon a stage, it exposed a man so much : " but," added I, " if you want money, go upon the highway." He urged that we had no pistols. I told him, I could rob any man with a stick, and bid him not fear, saying, I am a stout man, and so are you : who can take us ? we shall soon fill our pockets, and then we may buy pistols and horses too. Bristol is much better than London for robbing, and, as it is the fair-time, I don't question getting two or three hundred pounds before it is over." But he was still unwilling to go without pistols, so we concluded to buy a brace ; and at length he consented.

" At our first setting out, we met with alderman Rich's son, in Magdalen-lane, near his father's house : I proposed robbing him, but Jones objected, there being a woman near : I said, I feared nobody, and accordingly attacked him ; and robbed him of a pinchbeck watch, a 36s. piece, a moidore, and some silver. As I was robbing him, he dropt his cane or stick, which I picked up and gave him, I likewise asked him where he lived, and on his telling me at Mile-hill, I bid him go home and say nothing, for if he did, I would blow his brains out. We went from thence to Queen's-square the same night, and robbed Mr. Sheirclift of his watch and money ; after which I was going to rob a gentleman in the square at his own door, though Jones persuaded me to the contrary ; but before I could lay hold of him, the door was opened, and he went in and escaped my hands. The next day we went to Durham-down, and attacked Mr. Wasborough of Henbury, who struck me on the head with the butt-end of his whip, and wounded me, whereupon I fired at him : the ball went through his great

coat, but happily did him no further harm, for which I can never sufficiently thank God. I went then to a pond, and washed the blood off my face, and then we rode off for Bristol, and went to Jones's lodging, where after I had washed my face again, and gotten a plaister for my head, I proposed to go out again on foot; but Jones absolutely refused, saying, he was ill. However, I was resolute, and swore I would have some money that night (so was I hurried on by the devil); and accordingly went by myself to College-Green, and robbed a gentleman of a mourning-ring and seven shillings. When I had done, I returned to Jones's lodging, and gave him half the money, leaving my pistols with him. I then went to the Bell, in Broad-street, to enquire for lodging. Being asked from whence I came, I immediately replied from Westbury; not in the least imagining I could be suspected from that circumstance. But God is wise, and here he meant to stop me short in my career. I was suspected to be the person who attacked Mr. Wasborough on the Down, and more so from a drop of blood that was left on my face, notwithstanding I had washed it twice.---But by what small means can God bring great matters to light, when he sees proper, when at other times much stronger circumstances escape unobserved. To put an end to all doubt, while I was here, Mr. Wasborough himself came in, who charged me with the robbery. Being searched, and powder and ball found upon me, I was then committed to Bridewell, where being searched again, there was found upon me Mr. Sheirclift's watch, the mourning-ring, and the 36s. piece. Seeing no possibility of getting clear of the charge, I thought I had better to declare the whole of the matter; and accordingly, I impeached poor Jones, who was taken the next morning in bed, with the pistols at his bed-side, and Mr. Rich's watch in his pocket. We were afterwards both examined before the mayor of Bristol, and by him committed to Newgate.---I should here observe the reason why the things could not be found upon me the first time I was searched; they were concealed in a pri

vate pocket, many of which every common highwayman has about his clothes.

“When I was committed to prison, I was very heavily ironed and closely confined in the condemned room, it being apprehended that I, being a stout, sturdy, resolute person, might find means to make my escape.

“Surely the all-wise Providence of God over-ruled in all this affair: for had I robbed Mr. Washborough, I must have taken my trial at Gloucester, where I had in all probability been destitute of such spiritual helps as I have met with at Bristol: this, and my being so closely confined here, is such an instance of God’s mercy to me, as I shall have reason to praise him to all eternity. Hereby, I had the opportunity of reflecting on my past misconduct, and the conversation of some religious friends, uninterrupted by the rest of the prisoners.

“On Easter-Tuesday, March 31, as soon as I arose, I was so terrified in my conscience I could get no rest. I knew not what to do. I longed for some good Christian to advise me, but knew not whom to send to. The agonies of my mind increasing more and more, I thought to ease myself by reading a little: accordingly, I took up the common-prayer-book, in which I read, and sometimes prayed on my knees (the prisoners that lay in the room with me being all gone out). While I was in this distress of soul, and as I was reading, according to my wish, a woman came to the window, saying, *My friend, I am glad to see thee so well employed; I am not come to look at you, but to speak to you for the good of your soul.* She had not spoken many words more, before I was cut to the heart, and had I not given way to my distress by a flood of tears, my heart must have bursted. As soon as I was able to answer her, I could not forbear crying out, “I am the vilest sinner upon earth; I have been guilty of all-manner of wickedness.” She told me if I felt the burden of sin, I was the very person for whom Christ died; at which news I was a little refreshed, and for that time she left me. After this she came to me every day, with others that had like care of

my soul, and gave me such advice as they saw I stood in need of, and sung hymns suitable to my condition, and joined in fervent prayer for me, and directed me to proper portions of Scripture.---All this time, the conviction of my lost state sank deeper and deeper into my soul, and I made an open confession of such crimes as would have touched my life, if the fact I was committed for had not.

“ On Friday, April 10, the trumpet gave its solemn, pleasing sound, to call me and the rest of my fellow-criminals to the bar of justice. It was to me as a welcome voice from heaven, and it filled my heart with joy, hoping I should be shortly there. When I was put to the bar, knowing myself worthy of more than one death, I determined, as I had done before, to give the court no trouble, but to plead guilty, and addressed the judge nearly in this manner :

“ My lord,

“ I am called by the name of Jackson, but I desire to be indicted by the name of Nicholas Mooney, for the other is a fictitious name. And, my lord, I beg I may have the liberty of speaking a few words before I am arraigned, to let your lordship know, that I am the man who hath drawn Jones into these unhappy circumstances, and hope your lordship will therefore shew him favour. My lord, I have been arraigned for my life before at the Old Bailey, and was convicted ; and the cart came to the door to take me to execution, but I was reprieved. I then depended altogether upon the favour of my friends ; but now I rely only upon God. Had I died then I had gone to hell, and been damned to all eternity ; but now I am snatched as a brand from the burning, and my sentence will be pleasing.” His lordship then asked me, if I did not expect mercy, by pleading guilty. I replied, “ No, my lord, I expect no mercy from any man on this side the grave. The Lord is on my side. I do not fear what man can do unto me. I desire to die, for I have not only committed many robberies, but have been a rebel, and fought against my king and country. His majesty’s clemency to me I have abused. Till within these few days, I neither knew what it was to fear

or love God, but now I know both, and I know that God is reconciled to me, and has forgiven me all my sins, and I am content to die."

"The next day I was called to the bar again, to receive sentence of death, which I did with the utmost calmness, my soul being kept all the time in sweet peace and full of love. I here again addressed his lordship much to this purpose :

"My lord,

"Permit me again to entreat for John Jones, whom I have drawn into this trouble.---As for my own part, I have committed many robberies, and been a rebel against my king, and have wronged my country by coining money; for which I can never make the public restitution; therefore I am content to die, as I deserve. And I pray God to bless every one to whom I have done any wrong. And if there be any gentlemen of Bristol here, whom I have injured, I ask them forgiveness, and especially Mr. Wasborough (he then stood near me), whom I attempted to murder, but God saved him; for which I can never praise him enough.

"My lord, I desire only three Sundays, and I am willing to launch into eternity. And I hope, when I come to the place of execution, that God will open my mouth, to warn all to flee from their wicked course of life. I pray God to bless your lordship and the honourable court; and the Lord Jesus receive my soul!"

"After condemnation, I wrote letters, one to the poor creature who is now with child by me, and another to a gentleman who had been formerly my friend, part of which, for special reasons, I think proper here to subjoin.

"Dear Nelly,

*Bristol, April 14, 1752.*

"Righteous is the Lord, and just are his judgments. His hand hath at last overtaken me: his hand of justice to cut short my life, and his hand of mercy to save my soul. You, for one, can witness the justice of my sentence. Were it in my power, I would gladly make you and every one else amends, whom I have injured in their goods, persons, or credit; but seeing it is not, I hereby ask your forgiveness for the wrong I have done

you ; and I trust that God, to whom I owe this duty first, and you and every one else, will accept my willing mind to make full restitution.

“ I am too apprehensive what you have to undergo on my account, not to be concerned for you. Oh ! that I had sufficiently considered this before I had brought you into this trouble !—The shame naturally attending your circumstances, the trouble consequent thereon, the slight of friends, the indignity and reproaches of an ill-natured world, are all grievous to be borne ; but yet I hope that God, who comforts and supports me under my trials, in a manner I am not able to express, will do the same for you. Put your trust in him, and you shall never be confounded.

“ On Wednesday fortnight, or as some tell me, on Friday se’nnight, I am to be delivered out of the miseries of this sinful world. Glory be to God through Jesus Christ ; He has given repentance and remission of sins to me the worst of sinners. He has taken away the sting of death, and I am preparing to meet my Saviour and my judge. Let my example encourage every sinner to break off his sins and come unto God through Jesus Christ, pleading but his merits and their guilt, and he will freely forgive them : but let none presume on the long-suffering of God, for he will surely visit their iniquity with a rod, and their sins with scourges.

“ As a dying man I give you this advice : give yourself up wholly to God, pray to him continually, and never rest till you have secured an interest in the blood of Jesus Christ. Live in his fear, and you will, as I trust I shall, die in his favour. I now commend you to God’s grace and almighty protection, and request your earnest prayers for

“ Your dying friend and well-wisher,

“ NICHOLAS MOONEY.”

“ Please to communicate these lines to Mr. B——ht, with my due respects.”

“ TO A FRIEND.

“ Before I die, I take this opportunity of acknowledging your kindness to me in times past. Oh ! that I had

deserved it ; for then I had not brought myself into *these* unhappy circumstances. But God is wise ; and seeing I would not hear his voice, and leave my wicked life, he gave me up to my heart's lust, and permitted me to fill up the measure of mine iniquity, that in me at last might be shewn the severity of his justice, and riches of his mercy.

" You took me, the most abandoned wretch, for an honest man ; and as such, you kindly and generously recommended me where I might have done well. It is my own fault I did not. On Friday se'nnight I am to meet the fate my crimes have justly deserved. I deserve not only death, but hell ! to the former, man hath doomed me ; from the latter, Christ will save me. Of this I have such a firm hope in myself, being assured that God is reconciled to me (O the riches of his mercy in Christ Jesus !) that my prison is a palace, my chains are as ornaments, and I am quite happy. I hope every one will pray for me, that my faith fail not.

I am longing for death, and in firm expectation of a glorious resurrection to eternal life.

" Your much obliged and dying servant,  
*Bristol, April 14, 1752.* " NICHOLAS MOONEY."

" On the Sunday before I was to die, a friend proposed our going in a coach to execution ; but I told my fellow-sufferer, as our crimes have been public, let us be public examples : let us be seen of all, that all may take warning. God will support us. We do not know what good we may do by being exposed in a cart. I had likewise a friendly visit from Mr. Wasborough and Mr. Sheirclift, which gave me no small satisfaction : and that day I received the blessed sacrament. On Tuesday night, W. Cudmore, who was condemned to die with Jones and me, found means to get off his irons, and had begun to break the prison, but was discovered. But had all the prison-doors been set open, here would I have stayed to meet the fate my crimes have deserved. On the following day, I kept a fast to the Lord, took the sacrament and attended at chapel."

*Some further Particulars relating to NICHOLAS  
MOONEY*

THE night before he died, the executioner came into the room and said, "Gentlemen, if you are not willing, I will not perform the office, although I am come:" at which Mooney took him by the hand, and said, "My friend, you are a welcome man to me."

That night six persons sat up in the room, and spent the time till midnight in reading, singing, and solemn prayer. At one, the prisoners went to bed, and desired the eighth chapter of the Romans to be read to them, which being done, they went to sleep. At three, Mooney arose, and washed himself, saying, "My wedding-day is come at last!" He conversed cheerfully with his friends, till four, and then called up Jones and Cudmore, and all together spent about an hour in devotion. After this, Jones falling into a great agony, as he stood at the window, reading in the Bible, retired to the bed, and seemed under such great terrors, that he had fainted, had not timely application been made: at which Mooney clapped his hands, and rejoicing, cried out, "I bless God for this: more of my sort of work; mine began in this manner." When Jones came to himself, Mooney took him by the hand, saying, "Come, my dear brother Jones, fear not; we shall take our flight above the clouds soon."

One then asked Jones how he did? he replied, "my heart is ready to burst; and yet at the same time I find in me such rejoicing as if I had the whole world given to me. I was never so happy in my life."

About seven o'clock, company began to flock in, and Mooney, with the utmost cheerfulness testified to all the consolation, he felt from God. He then dressed himself in mourning, saying, "I hope this is no sin; I do it not out of vanity, but decency, No, no more of the devil's works for me."

About eight his fetters were taken off; at which he said, "thus hath God taken off the chains of my sins."

He continued reading, praying, and speaking to the people till he was called to the sacrament at nine.

At the place of execution, they all joined the minister in singing and prayer; which done, Mooney earnestly exhorted all to take warning by him.—He then gave this printed narrative of his life to the sheriff, and said, “this was revised by me last night, and contains nothing but the truth, and it is my desire it should be dispersed abroad as much as possible, to shew my wickedness and God’s goodness, who has forgiven me all my sins.” He then added, “O, Sir, I cannot express the happiness I feel. There is more pleasure in serving God one hour, than in a long life of sin. Oh! what hath he done for so vile a sinner! I know Christ died for me, and the moment the breath is out of my body, my soul will be in heaven. I can from my heart triumph with the apostle, and say, “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” As the executioner was preparing to tie up Jones, he cried out, “Tie me up first; for I am the greatest offender:” desiring that no one would pull his legs, for that he was willing to suffer all the pains of death.—The rope being fixed, he cried out, “My soul is so full of the love of God, that it is ready to start out of my body; and in a few moments I shall be at my father’s house.” The cart being drawn away, he was launched into eternity. It is remarkable, that he never stirred hand or foot, after he was turned off, but his soul seemed to have willingly taken its flight, before it was forced from the body.

His corpse was conveyed in a hearse from the place of execution to a friend’s house in Temple-street, from whence it was interred the Sunday following in Temple-church-yard, in the presence of several thousands of people.

## A DARING BURGLARY,

*Committed in the House of Mr. Porter, of the Ratke Farm House, near Chester, by McCannelly, Morgan, Stanley, Boyd, and Neill, Irish Haymakers; for which the two first were executed on the 25th of May, 1752.*

As the harvest approaches, numbers of the lowest class of Irish come over to the nearest counties in England, to be hired, as they receive better wages, and live better than in their own country; and a wild, ferocious, and knavish set generally mix among the industrious and honest, for the purpose of plundering their employers.

Mr. Porter, a wealthy farmer, of Cheshire, had engaged a number of these people, in the year 1752. in his harvest-fields. One evening his house was beset by a gang of them, who forcibly broke open his doors, advanced to him while at his supper-table, seized and bound him with cords, at the same time, with horrid threats demanding his money.

They also seized his eldest daughter, pinioned her, and obliged her to shew them where her father's money and plate were deposited. In the confusion, the youngest daughter, an heroic little girl of thirteen years of age, made her escape, ran into the stable, got astride the bare back of a horse, only haltered; but not daring to ride past the house, beset by the thieves, she galloped over the fields, leaping hedges and ditches, to Pulford, to inform her eldest brother of the danger they were in at the village. He, and a friend named Craven, determined on attacking the villains, and for that purpose set off at full speed, the little girl accompanying them.

On entering his paternal roof, the son found one of the villains on guard, whom he killed so instantaneously, that it caused no alarm. Proceeding to the parlour, they found the other four, in the very act of setting his father on the fire, after robbing him of fourteen guineas, in order to extort more. They had stripped down his

breeches to his feet, and his eldest daughter was on her knees, supplicating for his life.

What a sight was this for a son ! Like an enraged lion, and backed by his brave friend, he flew upon them. They fired two pistols, and wounded both the father and the son, and a servant boy whom they had also bound, but not so as to disable them, for the son wrested a hanger from one of them, cleft the villain to the ground, and cut the others.

The eldest daughter having unbound her father, the old man united his utmost efforts by the side of his son and friend ; and so hard did they press, that the thieves jumped through a widow, and ran off.

The young men pursued, and seized two more on Chester-bridge, who dropped a silver tankard. The fifth got on board a vessel at Liverpool, of which his brother was the cook, bound for the West-Indies ; which sailed, but was driven back by adverse winds.

The account of the robbery, with the escape of the remaining villain, having reached Liverpool, a king's boat searched every vessel, and at length found the robber, by the wounds he had received, and sent him in fetters to Chester gaol.

Mr. Porter had a servant man in the house at the time, a countryman of the robbers, who remained an unconcerned spectator, and as he afterwards run away, he was also sent to prison, charged with being an accomplice. They were brought to trial at Chester assizes, in March, 1752, and condemned.

Boyd, on account of his youth, and his having endeavoured to prevail upon the others not to murder Mr. Porter, had his sentence of death remitted for transportation.

The hired servant of Mr. Porter was not prosecuted.

On the Thursday previous to the day fixed for execution, Stanley slipped off his irons, and changing his dress, escaped out of gaol, and got clear off.

On the 25th of May, 1752, M'Cannelly and Morgan were brought out of prison, in order to be hanged. Their behaviour was as decent as could be expected from such

low-bred men. They both declared that Stanley, who escaped, was the sole contriver of the robbery.

They died in the catholic faith, and were attended by a priest of that persuasion.

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## THOMAS WILFORD,

[A Cripple, who murdered his Wife.]

*Executed at Tyburn, June 22, 1752.*

IN this malefactor, a wretch of the most depraved and low class of the metropolis, we find the passion of love enflamed by the "green-eyed monster," into jealousy; which, as in greater men, knowing no bounds, works up the mind to madness and desperation. The murder, in such instances, of the fair, and too often the frail, partner of the heart generally ensues.

Thomas Wilford was born of very poor parents, at Fulham, in the county of Middlesex; and coming into the world with only one arm, he was received into the workhouse, where he was employed in going of errands for the paupers, and occasionally for the inhabitants of the town; and was remarkable for his inoffensive behaviour.

A girl of ill-fame, named Sarah Williams, being passed from the parish of St. Giles in the Fields to the same workhouse, had art enough to persuade Wilford to marry her, though he was then only seventeen years of age; and their inclinations being made known to the churchwardens, they gave the intended bride forty shillings, to enable her to begin the world.

The young couple now went to the Fleet, and were married: after which they took lodgings in St. Giles's; and it was only on the Sunday succeeding the marriage, that the murder was perpetrated. On that day, the wife having been out with an old acquaintance, staid till midnight; and on her return, Wilford, who was jealous of her conduct asked her where she had been. She said

to the Park, and would give him no other answer ; a circumstance that inflamed him to such a degree, that a violent quarrel ensued, the consequence of which was fatal to the wife ; for Wilford's passions were so irritated, that he seized a knife, and she advancing towards him, he threw her down, and kneeling on her, cut her throat, so that her head was almost severed from her body.

He had no sooner committed the horrid deed, than he threw down the knife, opened the chamber-door, and was going down stairs, when a woman, who lodged in an adjacent room, asked who was there ? to which Wilford replied, " It is me ; I have murdered my poor wife, whom I loved as dearly as my own life."

On this the woman went down to the landlord of the house, and was immediately followed by Wilford, who said he had killed the woman that he loved beyond all the world, and was willing to die for the crime he had committed : and he did not make the slightest effort to escape.

On this the landlord called the watch, who, taking Wilford into custody, confined him for that night, and on the following day he was committed to Newgate by Justice Fielding.

Being arraigned on the first day of the following sessions at the Old Bailey, he pleaded guilty ; but the court refusing to record his plea, he was put by till the last day, when he again pleaded guilty, but was prevailed on to put himself on his trial.\*

Accordingly the trial came on ; during which the prisoner did not seek to extenuate the crime of which he had been guilty : on the contrary, his penitent behaviour and flowing tears seemed to testify the sense he entertained of his offence. Every person present seemed penetrated with grief for his misfortunes.

The case of this malefactor has been the rather inserted, because he was the first that suffered in consequence of

\* Much praise is due to the humanity of the judges, who frequently prevail on prisoners to retract their first plea of guilty ; and many instances have occurred in which they have been acquitted on their second arraignment.

an act that passed in the year 1751, for the more effectual prevention of murder, which decrees that the convict shall be executed on the second day after conviction : for which reason it has been customary to try persons charged with murder on a Friday ; by which indulgence, in case of conviction, the execution of the sentence is necessarily postponed till Monday : and by the same act it is ordained, that the convicted murderer shall be either hung in chains, or anatomized.

The jury having found Wilford guilty, sentence against him was pronounced in the following terms : Thomas Wilford, you stand convicted of the horrid and unnatural crime of murdering Sarah your wife. This court doth adjudge, that you be taken back to the place from whence you came, and there to be fed on bread and water till Wednesday next, when you are to be taken to the common place of execution, and there hanged by the neck until you are dead ; after which your body is to be publicly dissected and anatomized, agreeable to an act of parliament in that case made and provided : and may God Almighty have mercy on your soul !

Both before and after conviction, Wilford behaved as a real penitent, and at the place of execution he exhibited the most genuine signs of contrition for the crime of which he had been guilty.

## CAPTAIN PETER DE LA FONTAINE,

*Condemned to die for Forgery, but afterwards transported, September, 1752.*

DE LA FONTAINE was born of noble parents in France, and received a military education, and served at the siege of Phillipsburgh, under the duke of Berwick.

The campaign being ended, he went to Paris, where a gentleman invited him to spend some time at his country seat, when he fell in love with his daughter, who wished to marry him ; but the father interposing, she eloped with

her lover, and they lived a considerable time as married people, at Rouen.

On their return to Paris the young lady lodged in a convent; but De la Fontaine appearing in public, some officers of justice, seeing him in a coffee-house, told him they had the king's warrant for apprehending him: on which, he wounded two of them with his sword; notwithstanding which, he was seized and lodged in prison.

On this he wrote to the young lady, telling her he was obliged to go into the country on urgent business, but would soon return; and having made an interest with the daughter of the keeper of the prison, she let him out occasionally, to visit his mistress.

Being brought to trial for running away with an heiress, he would have been capitally convicted, agreeably to the laws of France, but that the young lady voluntarily swore that she went off with him by her own consent. Soon after his acquittal, she was seized with the pains of labour, and died in child-bed.

Soon afterwards De la Fontaine went again into the army, and behaved so bravely at the battle near Kale, that the duke of Berwick rewarded his courage with the commission of lieutenant of grenadiers.

A young lady of Strasburgh, who had fallen in love with De la Fontaine at Paris, before his former connection, now obtained a pass from the marshal de Bellisle, and being introduced to the duke of Berwick, told him she wished to see De la Fontaine; and the duke, judging of the cause, ordered her to be conducted to him.

On the following day she went to the duke, dressed in men's clothes, and begging to enter as a volunteer in the same regiment with De la Fontaine, she was indulged for the novelty of the humour. She went through the regular duties of a soldier, and reposed in the same tent with her paramour; but, in the winter following the campaign, she died of the small-pox, leaving a part of her fortune to her lover.

The duke of Berwick being killed at the siege of Philipsburgh, De la Fontaine made the tour of Europe; but returning to Paris, he fought a duel with an officer, who

being dangerously wounded, our hero repaired to Brest, and embarked as lieutenant of marines on board a vessel bound for Martinico.

The ship being taken by a Turkish corsair was carried into Constantinople, where De la Fontaine was confined in a dungeon, and had only bread and water for his sustenance. While in this situation, he was visited by another prisoner, who had more liberty than himself, and who advised him, as the French consul was then absent, to apply to a Scotch nobleman then in the city, who was distinguished for his humane and generous feelings.

De la Fontaine having procured pen, ink, and paper, with a tinder-box to strike a light (all by the friendship of his fellow-prisoner), sent a letter to the nobleman, who had no sooner read it, than he hurried to the cells, to visit the unfortunate prisoner.

Having promised his interest to procure his enlargement, he went to the grand vizier, and pleaded his cause so effectually, that De la Fontaine was released, and went immediately to thank the vizier, who wished him happy, and presented him with a sum of money.

Hence our adventurer sailed to Amsterdam, where, having a criminal connection with a lady, who became pregnant, he embarked for the Dutch settlement of Co-raçoa; but finding the place unhealthy, he obtained the governor's permission to go to Surinam, where he continued above five years.

While in this place, the governor invited him to a ball, where one of the company was a widow lady of rank, of whom he determined, if possible, to make a conquest, nor did he long fail of an opportunity, for dining with her at the governor's house, they soon became very intimately acquainted.

The consequence of their sociability was a residence as husband and wife; and four children were the fruits of the connection, three of whom died: but the other, a boy, was educated by the Dutch governor.

Other officers having addressed the same lady, De la Fontaine was occasionally involved in difficulties on her account. One of these officers having traduced him in

his absence, our hero, on meeting him, bid him draw his sword, but the other refused, on which De la Fontaine struck him with his cane, and cut off one of his ears. On this our adventurer was seized, and tried by a court-martial, but acquitted; and the officer degraded, on account of the provocation he had given; and from this time De la Fontaine was treated with unusual marks of civility.

He still lived on the best terms with the lady, and their affection appeared to be reciprocal.

The governor bestowed on him a considerable tract of land, which he cultivated to great advantage; but the malice of his enemies was so restless, that they prevailed on one of his negro servants to mix a dose of poison in his food.

Unsuspecting of any villainy, he swallowed the poison, the consequence of which was, that he languished several months; and the lady, affected by his situation, gave way to melancholy, which brought on a consumption, that deprived her of life.

After her death, De la Fontaine obtained the governor's permission to return to Europe; and lived for some time in a splendid manner at Amsterdam; but at length he determined to embark for England.

Having arrived in London, he took elegant lodgings, lived in the style of a gentleman, and made several gay connections.

Among his acquaintance was Zannier, a Venetian, who had been obliged to quit his own country, on account of his irregularities. This man possessed such an artful address, that De la Fontaine made him at all times welcome to his table, and admitted him to a considerable share of his confidence.

Zannier soon improved this advantage; for, contriving a scheme with an attorney and bailiff, he pretended to have been arrested for three hundred pounds, and prevailed on his new friend to bail him, on the assurance that he had a good estate in Ireland, and would pay the money before the return of the writ; but when the term arrived, our hero was compelled to discharge the debt, as Zannier did not appear.

Hitherto De la Fontaine had been in London without making any connection with the ladies; but there being a procession of free-masons at that time, he dressed himself in the most superb manner, and his chariot being the most elegant of any in the procession, he was particularly noticed by the spectators.

Among the rest, the daughter of an alderman had her curiosity so much excited, that she caused enquiry to be made who he was; and on the following day sent him a letter, intimating that she should be at a ball at Richmond, where he might have an opportunity of dancing with her.

Our hero did not hesitate to comply; and when the ball was ended, he received an invitation to dine with the young lady on the following day, at her father's house. He attended accordingly; but the father having learnt his character, insisted that he should decline his visits, which put an end to all his hopes from that quarter.

The circumstances of our hero being greatly reduced, he resolved, if possible, to repair them by marriage, and was soon afterwards wedded to a widow of considerable fortune; but his taste for extravagance rendered this fortune unequal to his support; nor was his conduct to his wife by any means generous.

Soon after his marriage he was at the lord-mayor's ball, where he made an acquaintance with the wife of a tradesman, which ended in a criminal connection.

The parties frequently met at taverns and bagnios, and De la Fontaine having written to the lady, appointing her to meet him at a tavern, the letter fell into the hands of her husband, who communicated the contents to her brother, and the letter was sealed up, and delivered according to its address.

The brothers agreed to go to the tavern, where they told the waiter to shew any lady to them who might enquire for De la Fontaine.

In a short time the lady came, and was astonished to be introduced to her brother and husband: but the latter was so affected, that he promised a full remission of all that was passed, on her promise of future fidelity. These

generous terms she rejected with contempt, and immediately left the room.

De la Fontaine being informed of this circumstance was overcome with a sense of the husband's generous behaviour, and advised the lady to return to her duty. At first she insulted him for his advice, but at length thought proper to comply with it.

Our hero now saw his own conduct in an unfavourable light; on which he went into the country with his wife for some time, to avoid his old associates, and then returned to London, determined to abandon his former course of life.

Unfortunately, however, he had not long formed this resolution, when Zannier went to him, begging his forgiveness for obliging him to pay the debt. De la Fontaine too easily complied with his request, and once more considered him as a friend.

Zannier and De la Fontaine going to a tavern, met with a woman whom the latter had formerly known, and a man who was dressed in black. While De la Fontaine was conversing with the woman, the stranger (who afterwards appeared to be a Fleet parson) read the marriage-ceremony from a book which he held in his hand; and the next week De la Fontaine was apprehended on a charge of bigamy, and committed for trial at the Old Bailey.

The villain Zannier visiting him in Newgate, De la Fontaine was so enraged at his perfidy, that he beat him through the press-yard with a broom-stick with such severity, that the turnkey was obliged to interpose to prevent murder.

In revenge of this, Zannier swore that De la Fontaine had been guilty of forgery, in imitating the hand-writing of a gentleman named Parry: in consequence of which De la Fontaine was brought to his trial, and capitally convicted, though a gentleman swore that the writing resembled that of Zannier, and there was too much reason to believe that his hand committed the forgery.

Yet the jury found De la Fontaine guilty; the court sentenced him to death, and the day was appointed for





his execution. He was, however, respited, and this was from time to time continued, during five years, when he was pardoned on condition of transportation.

In September, 1752, with many other convicts, he was shipped to the English colony of Virginia, in America.

## MARY BLANDY,

*Executed at Oxford, April 6, 1752, for the Murder of her Father.*

THE following case excited an uncommon degree of interest at the time it occurred ; and is, we think, without exception, the most affecting that has hitherto fallen under our notice. Many comparisons were made at the time, between the subject of this narrative and Miss Jefferies ; but we think them totally different : and the latter was incomparably the worst character, as the murder of her uncle was the consequence of a premeditated scheme between her and her accomplice ; whereas Miss Blandy was seduced by a profligate wretch, who professed to have honourable intentions, and to whom she unfortunately became so attached, that she blindly followed what his vicious inclination prompted him to advise. We do not intend in the least to palliate the wicked and unnatural crime, but merely to shew the difference between the two cases. Miss Jefferies committed a premeditated murder, and used every hypocritical artifice to conceal it ; whereas Miss Blandy ingenuously and penitently confessed what she had done ; and there is much reason to believe her assertion, that she did not think the powders were poisonous ; or, what is still more probable, that she did not think at all about it.

Mary Blandy was the only daughter of Mr. Francis Blandy, an eminent attorney at Henley-upon-Thames, and town-clerk of that place. She had been educated with the utmost tenderness, and every possible care was taken to impress her mind with sentiments of virtue and religion. Her person had nothing in it remarkably engaging ; but

she was of a sprightly and affable disposition, polite in manners, and engaging in conversation; and was uncommonly distinguished by her good sense.

She had read the best authors in the English language: and had a memory remarkably retentive of the knowledge she had acquired. In a word, she excelled most of her sex in those accomplishments which are calculated to grace and dignify the female mind.

The father being reputed to be rich, a number of young gentlemen courted his acquaintance, with a view to make an interest with his daughter: but of all the visitors, none were more agreeable, both to father and daughter, than the gentlemen of the army; and the former was never better pleased than when he had some of them at his table.

Miss Blandy was about twenty-six years of age when she became acquainted with captain William Henry Cranstoun, who was then about forty-six. He was the son of lord Cranstoun, of an ancient Scotch family, which had made great alliances, by intermarriages, with the nobility of Scotland. Being a younger brother, his uncle, lord Mark Ker, procured him a commission in the army; which, with the interest of 1500*l.* was all he had for his support.

Cranstoun married a Miss Murray in Scotland, in the year 1745, and received a handsome fortune with her: but he was defective in the great article of prudence. His wife was delivered of a son within a year after the marriage; and about this period he received orders to join his regiment in England, and was sent on a recruiting-party to Henley, which gave rise to the unhappy connexion that ended so fatally.

It may seem extraordinary, and is, perhaps, a proof of Cranstoun's art, that he could ingratiate himself into the affections of Miss Blandy; for his person was diminutive; he was so marked with the small-pox, that his face was in seams, and he squinted very much: but he possessed that faculty of small-talk which is but too prevalent with many of the fair sex.

Mr. Blandy, who was acquainted with lord Mark Ker,

was fond of being deemed a man of taste, and so open to flattery, that it is not to be wondered at that a man of Cranstoun's artifice ingratiated himself into his favour, and obtained permission to pay his addresses to the daughter.

Cranstoun, apprehending that Miss Blandy might discover that he had a wife in Scotland, informed her that he was involved in a disagreeable law-suit in that country with a young lady, who claimed him as a husband; and so sure was he of the interest he had obtained in Miss Blandy's affections, that he had the confidence to ask her if she loved him well enough to wait the issue of the affair. She told him, that if her father and mother approved of her staying for him, she had no objection.

This must be allowed to have been a very extraordinary declaration of love, and as extraordinary a reply.

Cranstoun endeavoured to conduct the amour with all possible secrecy; notwithstanding which, it came to the knowledge of lord Mark Ker, who wrote to Mr. Blandy, informing him that the captain had a wife and children in Scotland, and conjuring him to preserve his daughter from ruin.

Alarmed by this intelligence, Mr. Blandy informed his daughter of it; but she did not seem equally affected, as Cranstoun's former declaration had prepared her to expect some such news: and when the old gentleman taxed Cranstoun with it, he declared it was only an affair of gallantry, of which he should have no difficulty to free himself.

Mrs. Blandy appears to have been under as great a degree of infatuation as her daughter, for she forbore all farther enquiry on the captain's bare assurance that the report of his marriage was false. Cranstoun, however, could not be equally easy. He saw the necessity of devising some scheme to get his first marriage annulled, or of bidding adieu to all the gratifications he could promise himself by a second.

After revolving various schemes in his mind, he at length wrote to his wife, requesting her to disown him for a husband. The substance of this letter was, that,

“having no other way of rising to preferment but in the army, he had but little ground to expect advancement there, while it was known he was encumbered with a wife and family; but could he once pass for a single man, he had not the least doubt of being quickly preferred: which would procure him a sufficiency to maintain her, as well as himself, in a genteeler manner than he was now able to do. All therefore,” adds he, “I have to request of you, is, that you will transcribe the inclosed copy of a letter, wherein you disown me for a husband: put your maiden-name to it, and send it by the post. All the use I shall make of it shall be to procure my advancement, which will necessarily include your own benefit. In full assurance that you will comply with my request, I remain,

“Your most affectionate husband,  
“W. H. CRANSTOUN.”

Mrs. Cranstoun, ill as she had been treated by her husband, and little hope as she had of more generous usage, was, after repeated letters had passed, induced to give up her claim, and at length sent him the requested paper, signed Murray, which was her maiden-name.

The villainous captain, being possessed of this letter, made some copies of it, which he sent to his wife's relations, and his own: the consequence of which was that they withdrew the assistance that they had afforded the lady, which reduced her to an extremity she had never before known.

Exclusive of this, he instituted a suit before the lords of session, for the dissolution of the marriage; but when Mrs. Cranstoun was heard, and the letters read, the artful contrivance was seen through, the marriage was confirmed, and Cranstoun was adjudged to pay the expenses of the trial. At the next sessions, captain Cranstoun preferred a petition, desiring to be heard by council, on new evidence, which, it was pretended, had arisen respecting Miss Murray. This petition, after some hesitation, was heard; but the issue was, that the marriage was again confirmed, and Cranstoun was obliged to allow his wife a separate maintenance.

Still, however, he paid his addresses to Miss Blandy with the same fervency as before ; which coming to the knowledge of Mrs. Cranstoun, she sent her the decree of the court of session, establishing the validity of the marriage.

It is reasonable to suppose, that this would have convinced Miss Blandy of the erroneous path in which she was treading. On this occasion, she consulted her mother : and Cranstoun having set out for Scotland, the old lady advised her to write to him, to know the truth of the affair.

Absurd as this advice was, she wrote to him ; but, soon after the receipt of her letter, he returned to Henley, when he had impudence enough to assert, that the cause was not finally determined, but would be referred to the house of lords.

Mr. Blandy gave very little credit to this assertion. but his wife assented at once to all he said, and treated him with as much tenderness as if he had been her own child ; of which the following circumstance will afford ample proof.

Mrs. Blandy and her daughter being on a visit to Mrs. Pocock of Turville-court, the old lady was taken so ill as to be obliged to continue there for some days. In the height of her disorder, which was a violent fever, she cried, " Let Cranstoun be sent for." He was then with the regiment at Southampton ; but her request being complied with, she no sooner saw him, than she raised herself on the pillow, and hung round his neck, repeatedly exclaiming, " My dear Cranstoun, I am glad you are come ; I shall now grow well soon." So extravagant was her fondness, that she insisted on having him as her nurse ; and he actually administered her medicines.

On the following day she grew better ; on which she said, " This I owe to you, my dear Cranstoun ; your coming has given me new health and fresh spirits. I was fearful I should die, and you not here to comfort that poor girl. How like death she looks !"

It would be ungenerous to the memory of Mrs. Blandy to suppose that she saw Cranstoun's guilt in its true light

of enormity ; but certainly she was a most egregious dupe to his artifices.

Mrs. Blandy and her daughter having come to London, the former wanted forty pounds, to discharge a debt she had contracted unknown to her husband ; and Cranstoun coming into the room while the mother and the daughter were weeping over their distresses, he demanded the reason of their grief ; of which being informed, he left them, and soon returning with the requisite sum, he threw it into the old lady's lap. Charmed by this apparent generosity, she burst into tears, and squeezed his hand fervently ; on which he embraced her, and said, " Remember, it is a son ; therefore do not make yourself uneasy : you do not lay under any obligation to me."

Of this debt of forty pounds, ten pounds had been contracted by the ladies while in London, for expenses in consequence of their pleasures ; and the other thirty by expensive treats given to Cranstoun at Henley, during Mr. Blandy's absence.

Soon after this Mrs. Blandy died ; and Cranstoun now complaining of his fear of being arrested for the forty pounds, the young lady borrowed that sum, which she gave him, and made him a present of her watch : so that he was a gainer by his former apparent generosity.

Mr. Blandy began now to shew evident dislike of captain Cranstoun's visits : but he found means to take leave of the daughter, to whom he complained of the father's ill treatment ; but insinuated that he had a method of conciliating his esteem ; and that when he arrived in Scotland he would send her some powders proper for the purpose ; on which, to prevent suspicion, he would write, " Powders to clean the Scotch pebbles."

Cranstoun sent her the powders, according to promise ; and Mr. Blandy being indisposed on the Sunday se'nnight before his death, Susan Gunnel, a maid-servant, made him some water-gruel, into which Miss Blandy conveyed some of the powder, and gave it to her father, and repeating this draught on the following day, he was tormented with the most violent pains in his bowels.

When the old gentleman's disorder increased, and he

was attended by a physician, his daughter came into his room, and falling on her knees to her father, said, "Banish me where you please; do with me what you please, so you do but forgive me: and as for Cranstoun, I will never see him, speak to him, or write to him, as long as I live if you will forgive me."

In reply to this, the father said, "I forgive thee, my dear, and I hope God will forgive thee; but thou shouldst have considered before thou attemptedst any thing against thy father; thou shouldst have considered I was thy own father."

Miss Blandy now acknowledged that she had put powder in his gruel, but that it was for an innocent purpose: on which the father turning in his bed, said, "O such a villain! to come to my house, eat of the best, and drink of the best my house could afford; and in return take away my life, and ruin my daughter. O! my dear, thou must hate that man."

The young lady replied, "Sir, every word you say is like a sword piercing to my heart; more severe than if you were angry: I must kneel, and beg you will not curse me." The father said, "I curse thee, my dear! how couldst thou think I would curse thee? No; I bless thee, and hope God will bless thee, and amend thy life. Do, my dear, go out of the room; say no more, lest thou shouldst say any thing to thy own prejudice. Go to thy uncle Stephens, and take him for thy friend: poor man! I am sorry for him."

Mr. Blandy dying in consequence of his illness, it was suspected that his daughter had occasioned his death; whereupon she was taken into custody, and committed to the gaol at Oxford.

She was tried on the 3d of March, 1752, and after many witnesses had been called to give evidence of her guilt, she was desired to make her defence, which she did in the following speech:

"My lord,

"It is morally impossible for me to lay down the hardships I have received.—I have been aspersed in my character. In the first place, it has been said, I spoke

ill of my father ; that I have cursed him, and wished him at hell ; which is extremely false. Sometimes little family affairs have happened, and he did not speak to me so kind as I could wish. I own I am passionate, my lord ; and in those passions some hasty expressions might have dropped ; but great care has been taken to recollect every word I have spoken at different times, and to apply them to such particular purposes, as my enemies knew would do me the greatest injury. These are hardships, my lord, such as yourself must allow to be so. It was said too, my lord, that I endeavoured to make my escape. Your lordship will judge from the difficulties I laboured under : I had lost my father ;—I was accused of being his murderer ;—I was not permitted to go near him ;—I was forsaken by my friends—affronted by the mob—and insulted by my servants.—Although I begged to have the liberty to listen at the door where he died, I was not allowed it. My keys were taken from me ; my shoe-buckles and garters too—to prevent me from making away with myself, as though I was the most abandoned creature. What could I do, my lord ? I verily believe I must have been out of my senses. When I heard my father was dead, I ran out of the house, and over the bridge, and had nothing on but an half sack and petticoats, without a hoop—my petticoats hanging about me : the mob gathered about me. Was this a condition, my lord, to make my escape in ? A good woman beyond the bridge, seeing me in this distress, desired me to walk in, till the mob was dispersed : the town serjeant was there. I begged he would take me under his protection, to have me home : the woman said it was not proper ; the mob was very great, and that I had better stay a little. When I came home, they said I used the constable ill. I was locked up for fifteen hours, with only an old servant of the family to attend me. I was not allowed a maid for the common decencies of my sex. I was sent to gaol, and was in hopes there, at least, this usage would have ended ; but was told, it was reported, I was frequently drunk ; that I attempted to make my escape ; that I did not attend at chapel. A more abste-

innocent woman than I am, my lord, I believe is not in existence.

“ Upon the report of my making my escape, the gentleman, who was high-sheriff last year (not the present), came and told me, by order of the higher powers, he must put an iron on me. I submitted, as I always do, to the higher powers. Some time after, he came again, and said he must put a heavier upon me; which I have worn, my lord, till I came hither. I asked the sheriff why I was so ironed? He said, he did it by the command of some noble peer, on his hearing that I intended making my escape. I told them I never had any such thought, and I would bear it with the other cruel usage I had received on my character. The reverend Mr. Swinton, the worthy clergyman who attended me in prison, can testify I was regular at the chapel, whenever I was well; sometimes I really was not able to come out, and then he attended me in my room. They have likewise published papers and depositions, which ought not to have been published, in order to represent me as the most abandoned of my sex, and to prejudice the world against me. I submit myself to your lordship, and to the worthy jury. I do assure your lordship, as I am to answer at the great tribunal, where I must appear, I am as innocent as the child unborn, of the death of my father. I would not endeavour to save my life, at the expence of truth; I really thought the powder an innocent, inoffensive thing; and I gave it to procure his love (meaning towards Cranstoun). It has been mentioned, I should say I was ruined. My lord, when a young woman loses her character, is not that her ruin? Why then should this expression be construed in so wide a sense? Is it not ruining my character to have such a thing laid to my charge? And whatever may be the event of this trial, I am ruined most effectually.”

The trial lasted eleven hours, and then the judge summed up the evidence, mentioning the scandalous behaviour of some people respecting the prisoner, in printing and publishing what they called depositions taken before the coroner, relating to the affair before them: to which

he added, " I hope you have not seen them ; but if you have, I must tell you, as you are men of sense and probity that you must divest yourselves of every prejudice that can rise from thence, and attend merely to the evidence that has now been given."

The judge then summed up the evidence with the utmost candour ; and the jury, having considered the affair, found her guilty without going out of court.

After conviction, she behaved with the utmost decency and resignation. She was attended by the reverend Mr. Swinton, from whose hands she received the sacrament on the day before her execution, declaring that she did not know there was any thing hurtful in the powders she had given her father.

The night before her death she spent in devotion ; and at nine in the morning she left her apartment, being dressed in a black bombazine, and having her arms bound with black ribbons.

The clergyman attended her to the place of execution, to which she walked with the utmost solemnity of deportment ; and, when there, acknowledged her fault in administering the powders to her father, but declared that, as she must soon appear before the most awful tribunal, she had no idea of doing him any injury, nor any suspicions that the powders were of a poisonous nature.

Having ascended some steps of the ladder, she said, " Gentlemen, don't hang me high, for the sake of decency." Being desired to go something higher, she turned about, and expressed her apprehensions that she should fall. The rope being put round her neck, she pulled her handkerchief over her face, and was turned off on holding out a book of devotions which she had been reading.

The crowd of spectators assembled on this occasion was immense ; and when she had hung the usual time, she was cut down, and the body being put into a hearse, was conveyed to Henley, and interred with her parents, at one o'clock on the following morning.

It will now be proper to return to Cranstoun, who was the original contriver of this horrid murder. Having heard of Miss Blandy's commitment to Oxford gaol, he

concealed himself some time in Scotland, and then escaped to Boulogne in France. Meeting there with Mrs. Ross, who was distantly related to his family, he acquainted her with his situation, and begged her protection : on which she advised him to change his name for her maiden name of Dunbar.

Some officers in the French service, who were related to his wife, hearing of his concealment, vowed revenge if they should meet with him, for his cruelty to the unhappy woman : on which he fled to Paris, whence he went to Furnes, a town in Flanders, where Mrs. Ross had provided a lodging for his reception.

He had not been long at Furnes, when he was seized with a severe fit of illness, which brought him to a degree of reflection to which he had been long a stranger. At length, he sent for a father belonging to an adjacent convent, and received absolution from his hands, on declaring himself a convert to the Romish faith.

Cranstoun died on the 30th of November 1752, and the fraternity of monks and friars looked on his conversion as an object of such importance, that solemn mass was sung on the occasion, and the body was followed to the grave, not only by the ecclesiastics, but by the magistrates of the town.

His papers were then sent to Scotland, to his brother, lord Cranstoun ; his clothes were sold for the discharge of his debts ; and his wife came into the possession of the interest of the fifteen hundred pounds before mentioned.

## DR. A. CAMERON,

*Executed at Tyburn, June 7, 1753 (greatly lamented)  
for High Treason.*

As the rebellion was suppressed, and the British nation enjoyed internal peace, we could almost have wished the royal mercy had been extended to Dr. Cameron; as he took so small a part in the crime for which he suffered, and was drawn into it by attending, in his professional capacity, upon his elder brother.

The brother of this unfortunate man was the chief of the family of their name in the Highlands, and had obtained the highest degree of reputation by his zealous and effectual endeavours to civilize the manners of his countrymen.

Dr. Cameron, being intended by his father for the profession of the law, was sent to Glasgow; where he continued his studies some years; but, having an attachment to the practice of physic, he entered in the university of Edinburgh; whence he went to Paris, and then completed his studies at Leyden in Holland.

Though well qualified to have cut a respectable figure in any capital city, yet he chose to reside for life near his native place; and, having returned to the Highlands, he married, and settled in the small town of Lochaber; where, though his practice was small, his generous conduct rendered him the delight and the blessing of the neighbourhood. His wife bore him seven children, and was pregnant of the eighth at the unfortunate period of his death.

While Dr. Cameron was living happy in the domestic way, the rebellion broke out, and laid the foundation of the ruin of himself and his family. The Pretender having landed, went to the house of Mr. M'Donald, and sent for the doctor's brother, who went to him, and did all in his power to dissuade him from an undertaking from which nothing but ruin could ensue.

The elder Mr. Cameron having previously promised

to bring all his clan in aid of the Pretender, the latter upbraided him with an intention of breaking his promise; which so affected the generous spirit of the Highlander, that he immediately went and took leave of his wife, and gave orders for his vassals, to the number of near twelve hundred, to have recourse to arms.

This being done, he sent for his brother, to attend him as a physician; but the doctor urged every argument against so rash an undertaking; from which he even besought him on his knees to desist. The brother would not be denied; and the doctor at length agreed to attend him as a physician, though he absolutely refused to accept any commission in the rebel-army.

This unhappy gentleman was distinguished by his humanity; and gave the readiest assistance, by night or day, to any wounded men of the royal army, who were made prisoners by the rebels. His brother being wounded in the leg at the battle of Falkirk, he attended him with the kindest assiduity, till himself was likewise slightly wounded.

Dr. Cameron exhibited repeated instances of his humanity; but when the battle of Culloden gave a decisive stroke to the hopes of the rebels, he and his brother escaped to the western islands, whence they sailed to France, in a vessel belonging to that kingdom.

The doctor was appointed physician to a French regiment, of which his brother obtained the command; but the latter dying at the end of two years, the doctor became physician to Ogilvie's regiment, then in Flanders.

A subscription being set on foot, in England and Scotland, in the year 1730, for the relief of those persons who had been attainted, and escaped into foreign countries; the doctor came into England to receive the money for his unfortunate fellow-sufferers. At the end of two years another subscription was opened; when the doctor, whose pay was inadequate to the support of his numerous family, came once more to this country, and having written a number of urgent letters to his friends, it was rumoured that he was returned.

Hereupon, a detachment from lord George Beauclerk's

regiment was sent in search of him, and he was taken in the following manner :---Captain Graves, with thirty soldiers, going towards the place where it was presumed he was concealed, saw a little girl at the extremity of a village, who, on their approach, fled towards another village. She was pursued by a servant and two soldiers, who could only come near enough to observe her whispering to a boy, who seemed to have been placed for the purpose of conveying intelligence.

Unable to overtake the boy, they presented their guns at him ; on which he fell on his knees, and begged his life ; which they promised, on the condition that he would shew them the place where Dr. Cameron was concealed.

Hereupon the boy pointed to the house where he was, which the soldiers surrounded, and took him prisoner. Being sent to Edinburgh, he was thence conducted to London, and committed to the Tower.

While in this confinement, he was denied the use of pen, ink, and paper, and was not suffered to speak to his friends but when the warder was present. On his examination before the lords of the privy-council, he denied that he was the same Dr. Cameron whose name had been mentioned in the act of attainder ; which made it necessary to procure living evidence to prove his identity.

Being brought to the bar of the court of king's-bench on the 17th of May, he was arraigned on the act of attainder, when, declining to give the court any farther trouble, he acknowledged that he was the person who had been attainted : on which the lord chief justice Lee pronounced sentence in the following terms : " You, Archibald Cameron, of Lochiel, in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, must be removed from hence to his majesty's prison of the Tower of London, from whence you came, and on Thursday, the 7th of June next, your body to be drawn on a sledge to the place of execution ; there to be hanged, but not till you are dead ; your bowels to be taken out, your body quartered, your head cut off, and affixed at the king's disposal ; and the Lord have mercy on your soul !"

After his commitment to the Tower, he begged to see his wife, who was then at Lisle in Flanders; and, on her arrival, the meeting between them was inexpressibly affecting. The unhappy lady wept incessantly, on reflecting on the fate of her husband, herself, and numerous family.

Coming to take her final leave of him on the morning of execution, she was so agitated by her contending passions, that she was attacked by repeated fits; and, a few days after the death of her unfortunate husband, she became totally deprived of her senses.

On the 7th of June, the sheriffs went to the Tower, and demanded the body of Dr. Archibald Cameron, who was accordingly brought to them by William Ranford, Esq. the deputy-licutenant.

As soon as he was seated on the sledge, whereon he was to be drawn to the place of execution, he requested to speak to his wife, but being informed that she had left the Tower, after taking leave of him, at eight o'clock, he replied, he was sorry for it; upon which the sledge moved towards Tyburn, among a great number of spectators, who all pitied his situation.

The doctor was dressed in a light-coloured coat, red waistcoat and breeches, and a new bag-wig. He looked much at the spectators in the houses and balconies, as well as at those in the streets, and bowed to several persons with whom he had been acquainted.

At a quarter past twelve the solemn procession reached the place of execution, where he looked on the officers and spectators, with an undaunted and composed countenance; and as soon as unloosed from the sledge, he started up, and with an heroic deportment, stepped up into the cart, whence looking round with unconcern on all the apparatus of death, he smiled. Seeing the clergyman, that had before attended him, coming up the steps, he came forward to meet him, and endeavoured, with his fettered hands, to help him up, saying, "So, you are come:---this is a glorious day to me!---'tis my new birthday!---there are more witnesses at this birth than at my first."

The clergyman being now at the side of the cart, asked "how he felt himself;" he answered, "thank God, I am very well, but a little fatigued with my journey: but, blessed be God, I am now come to the end of it."

The sheriff asking the clergyman, whether he would be long about his office, Dr. Cameron immediately took the words, and said, he required but very little time; for it was disagreeable to be there, and he was as impatient to be gone as they were.

The clergyman then demanded of the gentleman who had spoke, whether he was the sheriff, and on being answered in the affirmative, he told him Dr. Cameron's business would be chiefly with him; that he had something to communicate to him, if he would take the trouble to come near, which he very readily complied with, and endeavoured to ride his horse close to the cart; but finding the beast a little unruly, and that he could not hear what the doctor said, by reason of the noise of the multitude, he beckoned with his hand for silence, but to no purpose: whereupon, he humanely alighted, and came up to the steps; whence, with great civility and attention, he listened to the doctor, who spoke to the following purpose:

"Sir,

"You see a fellow-subject, just going to pay his last debt: I more cheerfully resign my life, as it is taken from me for doing my duty, according to my conscience. I freely forgive all my enemies, and those who have been instrumental in taking away my life. I thank God, I die in charity with all men.

"As to my religion, I die a stedfast, though unworthy, member of that church in which I have always lived, the church of England; in whose communion, I hope, through the merits of my blessed Saviour, for forgiveness of my sins, for which I am heartily sorry.

"The custom of delivering something in writing, on such occasions as this, I should willingly have complied with, had it not been put out of my power, being denied the use of pen, ink, and paper, except in the presence of some of my keepers

“ But what I intend my country should be informed of, with regard to my dying sentiments, I have, by means of a blunt pencil, endeavoured to set down on some slips of paper, as I came by them, in as legible characters as I was able ; and these I have left in the hands of my wife, charging her on her duty to her dying husband, to transmit with all convenient speed, a faithful transcript of them to you, and I am confident she will faithfully discharge the trust.”

This truly unfortunate man then told the sheriff, he would no longer presume upon his patience ; but the sheriff, with looks that shewed a great deal of concern, begged he would take as much time as he pleased, for he would wait until he was ready. The doctor thanked him. He turned to the clergyman, and said, “ I have now done with this world, and am ready to leave it.”

He now joined him in some short prayers, and repeated some ejaculations out of the Psalms ; then embraced the clergyman, and took his farewell.

As the divine was going down from the cart, he had nearly missed the steps, which the doctor observing, called to him in a cheerful tone of voice, saying, “ Take care how you go ; I think you don’t know this way as well as I do ;” and now, giving the signal, the cart drew from under him.

The body, after hanging twenty minutes, was cut down : it was not quartered ; but the heart was taken out and burnt.

On the following Sunday, the remains of Dr. Cameron were interred in a large vault in the Savoy chapel.

## CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON AND JOHN STOCKDALE,

*Executed at Tyburn, July 3, 1753, and their Bodies hung in Chains, for Murder.*

JOHNSON was born in Newgate; and was the son of one Roger Johnson and his wife, who were confined in that prison on a charge of fraud. Soon after they obtained their liberty, the father died; and the mother sent the child to her relations at Derby, who, having given him a tolerable education, apprenticed him to a sadler; but, at the expiration of three years, he ran away, and travelled to London.

On his arrival, he went to some of his mother's relations, who persuaded him to return to Derby: but, deaf to their advice, and having imbibed false ideas of gentility, he procured some elegant clothes, and frequented the gaming-houses, where he soon made the most dangerous connexions, and arrived at the head of his profession.

From the practice of gaming, he took to that of forgery, at which he was remarkably expert in imitating the hands of other people to notes payable to himself; by which he repeatedly acquired money, but still escaped detection.

His daringness was such, that he sometimes arrested persons on whom he had committed forgeries, and compelled the payment of the money, by having people ready to swear that the hand-writing was that of the party whose name was subscribed to the draft.

The following is one specimen of his devices. He forged a note on a lady of considerable fortune, and signed her name to it so like her writing, that she almost discredited her own sight when she read it. Johnson arrested her; but as she knew she had given no such note, she bailed the action, and prepared to stand trial; but the guilty man declined all farther proceedings.

During this abandoned course of life, he became acquainted with the daughter of a man who kept an ale-

house in the Strand ; and they were privately married in the Fleet ; but, animosities soon arising between them, they proceeded from words to blows ; the consequence of which was, that they parted, and his wife became a common street-walker.

After this, Johnson took to picking pockets, and other low practices of defraud ; but a miserable poverty still attended him, for what he got dishonestly was soon spent in dissipation. At length he met with Stockdale at Sadler's-Wells, and agreed to see him the next evening, at a house in Holborn.

Stockdale was born at Leicester, where his father was a reputable proctor, who gave him an excellent education, but was too fond of him to keep that strict guard over his conduct which might have been essential to his future welfare. He very soon shewed a disposition to idleness, which was not properly checked by his parents, who would not permit his school-master to chastise him for his faults.

When the father saw his error, he determined, in pursuance of the advice of some friends, to send him to a proctor in Doctors'-Commons, where he hoped to hear of a speedy reformation in his manners.

Stockdale, however, was of too idle a disposition to brook confinement. His extravagance exceeded the bounds of his father's allowance, and he borrowed of his acquaintance to supply his immediate wants.

In this way he went on, frequenting places of public diversion, till those who had lent him money teased him for a return of it ; and he was at a loss for farther resources, when he met Johnson at Sadler's-Wells, as above-mentioned.

On the following day these ill-fated youths met at the appointed place, and made a contract for their mutual destruction. At this time Johnson was under twenty, and Stockdale not eighteen years of age.

Stockdale agreed to accompany Johnson ; and the next day they hired horses and rode towards Rufford, near which the party lived whom they intended to rob ; and having wasted the time till night, they tied their

horses to a hedge, and being armed with pistols, they knocked at the door, which being opened by the old gentleman, Johnson presented a pistol to his breast; and then they bound him and his two servants, and told the master, that he must expect immediate death, if he did not discover where his money was concealed.

Terrified by this threat, he told them to take a key from his pocket, which would open a bureau, where they would find a bag containing all the cash then in his possession. The robbers having seized the property, Johnson put the bag into his pocket, and then re-mounted, and rode to London, where they found the booty to consist of one hundred and fifty pounds: but this they soon dissipated in acts of extravagance; and then proceeded to commit a number of robberies on the roads of Essex and Kent.

It is now proper to mention the crime for which they suffered: a murder equally barbarous and unprovoked. They took horses in Holborn, and having rode to Edmonton, turned up a lane, where they met a postman who was carrying letters round the neighbourhood: the man goodnaturedly opened the gate for them to pass, when Johnson demanded his money and watch, which he held out to them, and at that instant was shot dead by Stockdale.

The murder was no sooner committed than they hastened to London; and though the country was alarmed by what had happened, they rode on the following day to Hounslow, where they dined. After dinner, they called for their horses; but Stockdale was so intoxicated that he at first fell from the horse, but was replaced.

The magistrates having by this time sent out a number of constables, the murderers were taken into custody, and carried before a magistrate, when Stockdale acknowledged his guilt; but by this time Johnson was so drunk, that he was insensible of his commitment to Newgate.

When Stockdale's master heard of his unhappy situation, he immediately wrote to his father, who coming to London, had a very affecting interview with his son, who exclaimed, "Oh, Sir, how shall I look you in the face!"

what disgrace have I brought upon you, what destruction upon myself ! A shameful death is preparing for me in this world : but what in the next, God knows."

The father advised him to an early preparation for the awful fate that awaited him, and refused to flatter him with hopes of that pardon which could not reasonably be expected. He comforted himself accordingly, and intended to have pleaded guilty, but was afterwards advised not to do so.

When brought up to receive sentence of death, Johnson was so unwell, that he was indulged with a chair.

Stockdale kept up his spirits with decent fortitude, until his eyes met those of a gentleman near him, with whom he had lived, when he burst into tears, and continued in great agitation the remainder of the awful time, frequently beating his head and breast in a violent manner.

Johnson was so extremely debilitated that he could pay no attention at the place of execution to the preparation of his soul for another life ; but Stockdale prayed fervently, and made a pathetic address to the populace at the fatal tree.

After hanging the usual time, their bodies were taken to Surgeons'-Hall for dissection ; and preparations for that purpose were making, when an order came from the office of the secretary of state, that they should be hung in chains on Winchmore-hill, where they were accordingly placed—a terrible example !

Soon after they were hung in chains, the following advertisement appeared in the London Gazette :

" General Post-Office, Oct. 28, 1753

" Whereas an anonymous letter has been sent to the right honourable Thomas Earl of Leicester, his majesty's postmaster-general, in the following terms :

‘ My Lord,

Thursday, Oct. 1753.

‘ I find that it is by your orders that Mr. Stockdale was hung in chains ; now, if you don't order him to be taken down, I will set fire to your house, and blow your brains out the first opportunity.’

“ A reward of one hundred pounds is hereby offered to any person who shall or may make a discovery of

the party or parties concerned in writing or sending the aforesaid letter, so that he, she, or they, may be convicted thereof, together with his majesty's most gracious pardon, to any accomplice who shall make discovery of the same.

“ By order of the postmaster-general,

“ GEORGE SHELVOKE, Sec.”

The writer of the letter was not discovered ; Stockdale's remains continued on the gibbet ; and the postmaster-general and his house remained in safety.

### CAPTAIN JOHN LANCEY,

*Executed at Execution Dock, June 7, 1754, for  
burning his Ship.*

THIS unfortunate man fell a dupe to the wickedness of an artful and villainous employer ; who, at the time, was a member of the house of commons ; and who fled the country to avoid the punishment due to his crimes, and left his unfortunate agent to bear the whole weight of the law.

Captain John Lancey was a native of Biddeford, in Devonshire, respectably born, and well educated. As he gave early proofs of an inclination for a seafaring life, he was taught navigation, was attentive to his studies, and gave proofs of a goodness of disposition that promised a better fate than afterwards attended him.

Lancey was sent to sea as mate of a ship, of which Mr. Benson, a rich merchant at Biddeford, was the proprietor. Lancey, having married a relation of Benson's, was soon advanced to the command of the vessel. This Benson was member of parliament for Barnstaple, in Devonshire : and what kind of character he deserved will appear in the sequel.

After Lancey had returned from a long voyage he was for a considerable time confined to his bed by a violent illness, the expence of which tended considerably to impoverish him. When he was in part recovered, Benson

told him that he proposed to refit the ship in which he had formerly sailed : that Lancey should have the command of her : that he (Benson) would insure her for more than double her value ; and then Lancey should destroy the vessel.

This proposal appeared shocking to Lancey, who thought it but a trial of his honesty, and declared his sentiments, saying, that he would never take any part in a transaction so totally opposite to the whole tenor of his conduct.

For the present nothing more was said ; but soon afterwards Benson invited Lancey and several other gentlemen to dine with him. The entertainment was liberal ; and captain Lancey being asked to stay after the rest of the company were gone, Mr. Benson took him to a summer-house in the garden, where he again proposed the destroying the ship, and urged it in a manner that proved he was in earnest.

Captain Lancey hesitated a short time on this proposal, and then declined to have any concern in so iniquitous a scheme ; declaring, that he would seek other employment rather than take any part in such a transaction ; but Benson, resolving if possible not to lose his agent, prevailed on him to drink freely, and then urged every argument he could think of to prevail on him to undertake the business, promising to shelter him from punishment in case of detection.

Lancey still hesitated : but when Benson mentioned the poverty to which his family was reduced by his late illness, and offered such flattering prospects of protection, the unhappy man at length yielded to his own destruction.

A ship was now fitted out, and bound for Maryland : goods to a large amount were shipped on board, but re-landed before the vessel sailed, and a lading of brickbats taken in by way of ballast.

They had not been long at sea, when a hole was bored in the side of the ship, and a cask of combustible ingredients was set on fire, with a view to destroy her. The fire no sooner appeared, than the captain called to some

convicted transports, then in the hold, to enquire if they had fired the vessel; which appears to have been only a feint, to conceal the real design.

The boat being hoisted out, all the crew got safe on shore; and then Lancey repaired immediately to Benson to inform him of what had passed: Benson instantly dispatched him to a proctor, before whom he swore that the ship had accidentally taken fire, and that it was impossible to prevent the consequences which followed.

Lancey now repaired to his own house, and continued with as much apparent unconcern as if such a piece of villany had not been perpetrated; but he was soon afterwards taken into custody by a constable, who informed him, that oath had been made of the transaction before the mayor of Exeter by one of the seamen. Lancey, however, did not express much concern, secure in his idea of protection from the supposed influence of Benson.

On the following day, Lancey, and one of the ship's crew, were committed to the gaol of Exeter, where they remained three months; and being then removed to London, were examined by sir Thomas Salisbury, the judge of the admiralty-court, and committed to the prison of the Marshalsea. Application was afterwards made to the court of admiralty, to admit them to bail; and there appeared to be no objection to granting the favour; but Benson, on whom they had depended for bail, had absconded, to escape the justice due to his atrocious crime.

Being committed to Newgate, they were brought to trial at the next sessions of admiralty held at the Old Bailey; when Lancey was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death; but the other was acquitted.

Lancey lay in prison about four months after conviction, during which his behaviour was altogether consistent with his unhappy situation. His christian charity was remarkable towards Benson; for, though that wicked man had been the cause and instigator of his ruin, yet he never once reflected on him, but imputed all the crime to himself, and appeared to behold it in its genuine light of deformity.





MARY SQUIRES.

22. 22. 22.



ELIZABETH CANNING

It was presumed, when he was first apprehended that he might have been admitted an evidence against Benson, if he would have impeached him but this he steadily refused to do.

His devotional exercises were exemplary : he attended prayers in the most regular manner, and gave every proof of his contrition. He was accompanied by two clergymen to the place of execution, and he confessed his guilt in a speech to the surrounding multitude.

This unhappy man suffered at Execution-dock, in the 27th year of his age.

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MARY SQUIRES, *convicted of Robbery ; and*  
ELIZABETH CANNING, *transported for Perjury.*

[A Case of Mystery, on which the Public were greatly divided in Opinion.]

THIS is a case upon which human sagacity can hardly determine ; we shall therefore only give an abridged account, fairly stated from the evidence as it arose.

If Elizabeth Canning's own story may be credited, she quitted the house of her mother, near Aldermanbury, on the first of January, 1753 ; and, having visited her uncle and aunt, who lived near Saltpetre-bank, was, on her return, assaulted in Moorfields by two men, who robbed her of half-a-guinea, which was in a small box in her pocket, and three shillings that were loose. They also took her gown, apron, and hat, which one of them put into the pocket of his great-coat : on which she screamed out ; but he bound a handkerchief round her mouth, and tied her hands behind her ; after which she received a violent blow on the head, which, added to her former terror, occasioned her falling into a fit, a disorder to which she had been subject about four years.

On her recovery from the fit, and about half an hour before she reached Wells's house, she found herself by the road-side, the two men dragging her forward. She observed water near the road, and arrived at the house

where she said she was confined about three hours before day-light. When she came into the house, she did not see the mistress of it, Susannah Wells; but saw Mary Squires, a gipsy, and two girls.

Squires taking Canning by the hand, asked her if she chose to go their way, and if she would, she should have fine clothes. Canning, understanding that her meaning was to commence prostitute, replied in the negative; on which Squires took a knife from a drawer, cut the lace from her stays, and took them from her. Then Squires pushed her up a few stairs out of the kitchen, to a place called the hay-loft, and shut the door on her. On the approach of day-light, she found that the room had neither bed nor bedstead, and only hay to sleep on; that there was a black pitcher nearly full of water, and about twenty-four pieces of bread, in the whole about the quantity of a quartern-loaf; and that she had in her pocket a penny minced-pie, which she had bought to carry to her brother.

She said, that she covered herself with a bed-gown and handkerchief, which she found in the grate; and that, for the space of twenty-eight days within a few hours, which she remained there, she had no food nor liquor except what is above-mentioned, nor had the common evacuation of nature.

About four in the afternoon of Monday the 29th of January, she pulled down a board that was nailed on the inside of the window, and getting her head first out, she kept fast hold by the wall, and then dropped into a narrow place by a lane, behind which was a field.

Having got into the highway, she enquired her way to London, but did not stop. When she came into Moorfields the clock struck ten; and she thence proceeded to her mother's near Aldermanbury, where she told the above story to two gentlemen with whom she had lived as a servant: to which she added, that the place where she had been confined was near the Hertfordshire road, which was evident from her having seen a coachman drive by, who had frequently carried her mistress into Hertfordshire.

A number of circumstances giving reason to suspect that the house in which she had been confined was that of Susannah Wells, a warrant was issued to apprehend her and Squires, and such other people as might be found in the house.

Mr. Lion, with whom she had lived servant, and several other persons, went with her to execute the warrant. When she came to the place, she fixed on Mary Squires as the person who had robbed her; and she said that Virtue Hall stood by while her stays were cut off.

On this, all the parties were carried before justice Tyslmaker; when Hall so solemnly denied all knowledge of any such transaction having happened since she had been in the house, that she was discharged; but Squires was committed to New-prison for the robbery, and Wells for aiding and abetting her.

Soon afterwards, justice Fielding was applied to for a warrant for the apprehension of Hall, and she was examined before that magistrate for six hours, during which she continued in her former declaration. At length the justice said, that he would examine her no longer, but would commit her to prison, and leave her to stand or fall by the evidence that should be produced against her; and he advised an attorney to prosecute her as a felon.

Hereupon she begged to be heard, and said she would tell the whole truth; and the substance of her declaration was, that Canning had been at Mrs. Wells', and was robbed in the manner that she herself had declared.

On this, Squires and Wells were brought to trial at the Old Bailey, and convicted, principally on the evidence of Virtue Hall, the first for assaulting and robbing Elizabeth Canning, and the latter for harbouring, concealing, and comforting her, well knowing her to have committed the robbery; and John Gibson, William Clark, and Thomas Grevil, having positively sworn that Squires was in Dorsetshire at the time when the robbery was said to have been perpetrated, they were committed to be tried for perjury.

\* Some gentleman who had heard the trial, being dissatisfied with the evidence which had been produced,

made such application, that a free pardon was granted to Squires.

In the mean time, numbers of people were of opinion that the countrymen had sworn to the truth; and measures were accordingly taken to indict Canning for perjury: but, at the next sessions, her friends preferred bills of indictment against the men. Bills of indictment against the opposite parties being brought at the same time, the grand jury threw them all out; being resolved not to give any countenance to such a scene of perjury as must arise on the one side or the other.

This happened at the sessions in April; but, at the next sessions, in June, bills of indictment were found against the countrymen: these, however, were intended to be removed into the court of King's-bench, by writ of certiorari; but the court refused to grant the writ, alledging, that the indictments ought to be tried at the Old Bailey, because the king's commission of gaol-delivery was directed to that court. Hereupon the countrymen were bailed; and, at the sessions held in the month of September following they were arraigned, but were honourably acquitted, no person appearing to give evidence against them.

Squires being pardoned, and these men thus acquitted, the public opinion of this singular case became still more divided. Every one saw that there must have been perjury in the affair; but it was impossible to determine on which side it lay.

The lord mayor of London, at that time, was sir Crisp Gascoyne, who exerted himself in the most vigilant manner to come at the truth of this mysterious affair; for which, as is but too common, he was abused with a degree of virulence that reflected the highest infamy on his calumniators; for, whatever might be their private opinion, or whatever his own, it was certainly the duty of a good magistrate to endeavour to investigate the truth.

In the month of May, 1754, Elizabeth Canning was indicted at the Old Bailey for wilful and corrupt perjury, in swearing that she had been robbed by Mary Squires. A great number of witnesses swore that Squires was near

Abbotsbury at the time that the robbery was said to have been committed : and, on the contrary, more than thirty persons of reputation declared on oath, that Canning's character stood so fair, that they could not conceive her capable of being guilty of such an atrocious crime as wilful perjury.

Ingenious arguments were used by the counsel on each side ; and the jury, after mature deliberation, brought in a verdict, that she was guilty ; in consequence of which she received sentence to be transported for seven years.

No affair, that was ever determined in a judicial way, did perhaps so much excite the curiosity, or divide the opinion, of the public, as that in question. . The newspapers and magazines were for a long time filled with little else than accounts of Canning and Squires : prints of both parties were published, and bought up with great avidity. Canning was remarkable for what is called the plainness, and Squires for the ugliness, of person ; and perhaps there never was a human face more disagreeable than that of the latter.

We should hardly be thought to exceed the truth, if we were to say, that ten thousand quarrels arose from, and fifty thousand wagers were laid on this business. All Great Britain and Ireland seemed to be interested in the event : and the person who did not espouse either one party or the other was thought to have no feeling. The first question in the morning was, "What news of Canning?" and the last squabble at night was, whether she was honest or perjured ; but this, however, could never be determined ; and it will probably remain a mystery as long as the world endures.

Elizabeth Canning was transported to New England on the 31st of July, 1754, having first received some hundreds of pounds collected by the bounty of her friends and partizans.

She was afterwards reputably married in America ; and the newspapers gave notice that she died some years ago in that country.

## NICHOL BROWN,

*Executed at Edinburgh, for the Murder of his Wife.*

THERE appears to have been in this man more savage ferocity than has hitherto come under our notice: for, though we have read of cannibals, and that even civilized men, when compelled by the excruciating pains of hunger, have slain, and with horrible compunction, eat one of their companions, to support life in the rest; we have never before found an instance of one in the land of civilization and of plenty, eating human flesh! The murder which this wretch committed was perpetrated with the most wanton barbarity, and in a way which shewed him to be as insensible as he was cruel.

This brute in human form was a native of Cramond, a small town near Edinburgh, where he received a school education. At a proper age he was placed with a butcher in that city, and, when his apprenticeship was expired, went to sea in a man of war, and continued in that station four years. The ship being paid off, Brown returned to Edinburgh, and married the widow of a butcher, who had left her a decent fortune.

Soon after this marriage, Brown commenced dealer in cattle, in which he met with such success, that, in the course of a few years, he became possessed of a considerable sum. His success, however, did not inspire him with sentiments of humanity. His temper was so bad, that he was shunned by all serious people of his acquaintance: for he delighted in fomenting quarrels among his neighbours.

Taking to a habit of drinking, he seldom came home sober at night; and, his wife following his example, he used frequently to beat her for copying his own crime. This conduct rendered both parties obnoxious to their acquaintance; and the following story of Brown, which may be relied on as a fact, will incontestibly evidence the unfeeling brutality of his nature.

About a week after the execution of Norman Ross,

for murder, Brown had been drinking with some company at Leith, till in the height of their jollity, they boasted what extravagant actions they could perform. Brown swore, that he would cut off a piece of flesh from the leg of the dead man and eat it. His companions, drunk as they were, appeared shocked at the very idea : while Brown, to prove that he was in earnest, procured a ladder, which he carried to the gibbet, and cutting off a piece of flesh from the leg of the deceased, brought it back, broiled, and ate it.

This circumstance was much talked of, but little credit was given to it by the inhabitants of Edinburgh, till Brown's companions gave the fullest testimony of its truth. It will be now proper that we recite the particulars of the shocking crime for which this offender forfeited his life.

After having been drinking at an ale-house in the Canongate, he went home about eleven at night, in a high degree of intoxication. His wife was also much in liquor ; but, though equally criminal himself, he was so exasperated against her that he struck her so violently, that she fell from her chair. The noise of her fall alarmed the neighbours ; but, as frequent quarrels had happened between them, no immediate notice was taken of the affair.

In about fifteen minutes the wife was heard to cry out " Murder ! help ! fire ! the rogue is murdering me ! help, for Christ's sake !" The neighbours, now apprehending real danger, knocked at the door ; but no person being in the house but Brown and his wife, no admission was granted ; and the woman was heard to groan most shockingly.

A person looking through the key-hole saw Brown holding his wife to the fire ; on which he was called on to open the door, but neglected to do so. The candle being extinguished, and the woman still continuing her cries, the door was at length forced open ; and when the neighbours went in they beheld her a most shocking spectacle, laying half naked before the fire, and her flesh in part broiled. In the interim, Brown had got into bed,

pretended to be asleep, and when spoken to appeared ignorant of the transaction. The woman, though so dreadfully burnt, retained her senses, accused her husband of the murder, and told in what manner it was perpetrated. She survived till the following morning, still continuing in the same tale, and then expired in the utmost agony.

Hereupon the murderer was seized, and being lodged in the gaol of Edinburgh, was brought to trial, and capitally convicted.

After sentence he was allowed six weeks to prepare himself for a future state, agreeable to the custom in Scotland.

He was visited by several divines of Edinburgh, but steadily persisted in the denial of his guilt, affirming that he was ignorant of his wife being burnt till the door was broke open by the neighbours.

Among others who visited the criminal was the Reverend Mr. Kinloch, an ancient minister, who, urging him to confess his crime, received no other reply than that "if he was to die to-morrow, he would have a new suit of clothes, to appear decently at the gallows." Mr. Kinloch was so affected by his declaration, that he shed tears over the unhappy convict.

On the following day he was attended to the place of execution by the Reverend Dr. Brown; but to the last he denied having been guilty of the crime for which he suffered.

After execution, he was hung in chains; but the body was stolen from the gibbet, and thrown into a pond, where being found, it was exposed as before. In a few days, however, it was again stolen; and though a reward was offered for its discovery, no such discovery was made.

THE  
SINGULAR DISCOVERY OF THE MAIL-ROBBER,  
DAVIS,

*Executed and hung in chains near the place where he  
committed the robbery.*

THIS man was a tallow-chandler in Carnaby-market, London, where he had some time carried on business with apparent credit, until his goods were distrained upon by his landlord, for rent. On taking an inventory thereof, a pistol was found in a drawer of a bureau, with some parts of bank notes, and several bills of exchange.

As the Cirencester mail had been robbed above two years before, and the customary reward had been in vain advertised for the discovery of the thief, a suspicion arose against him. The notes being shewn to an officer of the post-office, he suspected them to have been taken out of the mail; but lest he should prove innocent, and the charge be detrimental to him, a stratagem was used to carry him before a magistrate, to answer for some broils in which he had lately been involved. He was then charged with robbing the mail, which he denied.

But when he was upon the point of being discharged, a person came to the office with a silver tankard, which had been advertised to have been purchased with one of the notes plundered from the mail, of Mr. Harding in the Minories, and found concealed in Davis's house.

Mr. Harding was then sent for, who swore that the prisoner purchased it of him. Hereupon he confessed that he knew the person who had robbed the mail, and who, he said, then lay under sentence of death in Newgate.

To this falsehood he was answered, that the person he described, was sentenced only to transportation; upon which he turned pale and was agitated. He was thereupon committed to prison, and a warrant of detainer lodged against the convict whom he had accused.

• He was removed by writ of habeas corpus, to Ayles-

bury, and on the 12th of March, 1755, there brought to trial.

When asked, in the usual form, whether he was guilty, or not guilty, to the charges laid in the indictment? He refused to plead till his irons were taken off. This the court consented to, and he then pleaded, "Not guilty;" but after a trial which occupied five hours, he was convicted.

On the third of April following, he was executed at Gerrard's Cross, in Buckinghamshire, the place where he committed the robbery and there hung in chains.

### JOHN BERRY, STEPHEN M'DANIEL, JAMES EGAN, JAMES SALMON, AND --- BLEE,

#### *A new species of Murderers, and a most horrid Gang of Conspirators.*

Our readers might imagine that we have already related every species of murder, and it will hardly be credited, that so diabolical a conspiracy could be engendered in the mind of man, as that of enticing innocent youths to commit a robbery, and then apprehending them, for the sake of the reward, thus making a very trade of human blood. This infernal plot was however long successfully carried on, and many an innocent man fell a victim to the pretended violated laws of the country.

The head, or captain, as they dignified him, was Berry; a runner, or as commonly denominated a "Thief-taker," who lived at the bottom of what was then called George-yard, at the bottom of Hatton-Garden, and Blee was his servant.

M'Daniel had kept a public-house in Holborn; Egan was a shoemaker, in Drury-lane; and Salmon a leather-breeches-maker, in Drury-lane.

These villains, horrid to relate, conspired together, in accusing innocent people of crimes which took away life, for the reward offered. Various were the diabolical plans they laid for this purpose.

At one time, they enticed two victims to join them in committing a highway robbery upon one of their own gang; a third was to purchase the stolen goods; and the other was to apprehend the intended victims, permitting his accomplice, who had been concerned in the robbery, to escape, and then to join the party robbed and the receiver in the prosecution. But if, through the information of the other two, the thief-taker, who proposed and assisted in the robbery, was apprehended, then, in order to preserve him, the prosecution was not supported.

These villains exhibited an accusation of robbery against two young men, named Newman and March. Upon their trial, they related the manner in which they had been seduced; but the evidence of the thief-takers was so strong, that they were convicted and suffered death.

A poor man, named Tyler, was met by one of the gang, who said he would make him a present of a horse, for which he had no further occasion. The unfortunate man joyfully received the horse from his apparently generous benefactor; by whom he was advised to take the beast to an inn in Smithfield, there to be taken care of till he should determine in what manner to dispose of him. Before he could reach Smithfield, he was seized by Egan, who took him before the sitting alderman; and it being sworn that he had stolen the horse, he was committed to Newgate, and soon afterwards hanged. In the year 1753, they charged an innocent man, named Woodland, with felony; and he was committed, and sentenced to suffer death: but he was so fortunate as to receive a pardon, on condition of transportation. The villains, however, claimed, and actually received, the reward, in consequence of having prosecuted him to conviction.

Joshua Kidden, whom we shall mention hereafter, was the next who fell a sacrifice to their diabolical artifices. It would be tedious to recount the particulars relating to the many people who suffered death through the false evidence of these atrocious villains; and especially as the several cases bear much similarity to each other. We

shall now proceed to a narrative of the fact of which they were convicted.

The money obtained by the conviction of Kidden being nearly expended, they employed themselves in concerting new schemes of villany for recruiting their finances. It was determined to employ a man named Blee, a fellow of abandoned principles, who had for some time acted as an assistant to Berry, in attending in the fields about Islington till he could decoy two idle boys to consent to join him in a robbery.

They all held a meeting in an arbour belonging to a public-house, the sign of Sir John Oldcastle, in the neighbourhood of Islington, where they appointed the time for committing the robbery, and that it should be near Deptford, on account of the inhabitants of Greenwich having advertised twenty pounds for the apprehending any highwayman or footpad, in addition to the reward allowed by parliament. Their wicked plan being settled, they separated; for, lest they should be suspected of holding an improper correspondence, they were particularly careful not to be seen together, where there was a probability of their persons being known.

The time for holding the assizes being arrived, Mr. Cox, having a warrant for apprehending Berry, Salmon, M'Daniel, and Egan, went to Maidstone, having Blee in custody. Mr. Cox waited till the conclusion of the trial, but had no sooner heard the foreman of the jury pronounce the prisoners guilty, then he caused the four iniquitous accomplices to be taken into custody. They obstinately persisted in declaring themselves innocent; and even when confronted with Blee, denied having the least knowledge of him: but, on the following day, they severally requested to be admitted evidences for the crown; in this none of them were indulged, the evidence of Blee being deemed sufficient for their conviction.

They were removed to London, in order for trial, as being accessaries before the fact. The jury were not able to determine whether the prisoners came within the description of the statutes fourth and fifth of Philip and Mary, or third and fourth of William and Mary, and

therefore referred the case to the decision of the twelve judges.

The special verdict being brought to a hearing before the judges in the hall of Serjeant's inn, counsel was heard on both sides, and it was unanimously determined that the offences charged against the prisoners did not come within the meaning of the statutes above-mentioned : but orders were given for the indicting them for a conspiracy.

An indictment being found against them, they were again put to the bar at the Old Bailey, and the evidences exhibited against them on their former trial being recapitulated, the jury pronounced them guilty, and they were sentenced to be punished in the following manner : Berry and M'Daniel to stand on the pillory, once at the end of Hatton Garden, in Holborn, and once at the end of King-street in Cheapside ; Salmon and Egan to stand once in the middle of West Smithfield, and the second time at the end of Fetter-lane, in Fleet-street ; and all to be imprisoned in Newgate for the space of seven years ; and upon the expiration of that time not to be discharged without finding sureties to be bound in the penalties of a thousand pounds each for their good behaviour for the seven following years.

March the 5th, 1756, M'Daniel and Berry were set on the pillory at the end of Hatton Garden, and were so severely treated by the populace that their lives were supposed to be in danger.

Egan and Salmon were taken to Smithfield on Monday the eighth of the same month, amidst a surprising concourse of people, who no sooner saw the offenders exposed on the pillory, then they pelted them with stones, brick-bats, potatoes, dead dogs and cats, and other things. The constables now interposed ; but being soon overpowered, the offenders were left wholly to the mercy of an enraged mob. The blows they received occasioned their heads to swell to an enormous size ; and they were nearly strangled by people hanging to the skirts of their clothes. They had been on the pillory about half

an hour, when a stone striking Egan on the head, he immediately expired.

This man's fate, however illegally he met his death, will cause but little sorrow; yet, living under wholesome laws, we would not see even such a wretch as Egan punished but by the sentence of a court.

The sheriffs, fearing that should the survivors be again exposed to the vengeance of an enraged people, they would share the fate of their companion in iniquity, the remainder of the sentence of pillory was on that account remitted; but the length of their sentence of imprisonment, added to the great amount of the sureties for their good behaviour after the expiration thereof, might have been considered tantamount to imprisonment for life; a fate well suited to such mischievous, hard-hearted, and unrelenting villains.

They, however, soon died in Newgate, thus ridding the world of the principal part of this terrific gang.

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### JOSHUA KIDDEN,

*A Victim of the horrid Conspirators, whose crimes and punishments are described above.*

WE have already given the names of some of the devoted victims of these conspirators; but as they were chiefly selected from the very lowest part of society, the particulars of their unhappy cases are lost in obscurity.

The subject of this melancholy history, was in a superior rank of life to his innocent fellow-sufferers; and, like them, it will be found had taken no part in the pretended robbery of which he was accused.

The father of Kidden, was a reputable watch-maker in London, and having given his son a classical education, bound him apprentice to an apothecary; but being fond of idleness, he was soon discontented with culling simples and pounding roots. His indulgent parents, thinking that the watery element might better suit his lazy turn of mind, accordingly procured him a situation as a petty-officer in the royal navy; in which he remained during six years.

Having now returned to his paternal home, his father, fondly hoping that he had settled his mind to a sea-faring life, procured masters to instruct him in the theoretical parts of navigation, and every other branch of that art ; but he neglected his opportunity, and hung about his father, a useless and expensive burden ; however, we find no propensity in him to dishonesty.

At length, somewhat arousing from his apathy, he made an essay to earn his own bread, and for that purpose ranged himself among the porters, at the end of Fleet-market ; for he had neglected to acquire any trade or business.

Going one evening, after the toil of a hard day's work, to regale himself with the London labourer's most wholesome beverage, porter, he was unfortunately marked by the villain Blee, one of the gang last mentioned, who conceived him a fit object upon whom to exercise his hellish design.

Kidden, who had uncertain employ, told Blee that he was in want of work ; and the latter engaging to procure some for him, got him lodgings in an alley in Chick-lane, where he continued from Friday till the following Monday, when he was told that there was a job at Tottenham to remove some effects of a gentleman, which would otherwise be seized for rent.

At the time appointed, Kidden and Blee went to Tottenham ; and having waited at a public-house till the approach of night, Blee went out, with a pretence of speaking to the gentleman whose goods were to be removed ; but, on his return, said that the business could not be transacted that night.

They now quitted the public-house, and proceeded towards London, after Blee had given Kidden eighteen-pence, as a compensation for the loss of his day's work. On the London side of Tottenham they observed a chaise, and a woman sitting on the side of the road near it. Kidden asked her if she was going to London ; she replied in the affirmative ; but he walked forwards, paying no attention to what she said, till he heard Blee call him back, demanding to know why he walked so fast. Kid-

den turning back, observed that Blee was robbing the woman ; on which he declined a nearer approach, disdaining to have any concern in such a transaction : but Blee, running up to him, said, " I have got the money : " and would have prevailed on him to take half a crown ; but this he declined.

Blee then desired Kidden not to leave him ; and the latter staying two or three minutes, a thief-taker, named M<sup>r</sup> Daniel, rushed from a hedge, and seizing Kidden, told him that he was his prisoner.

The woman thus pretendedly robbed was one Mary Jones ; and all the parties going before a magistrate, it was positively sworn that Kidden was the robber, and that he took twenty-five shillings from the woman ; on which he was committed to Newgate.

Mary Jones, the woman supposed to have been robbed, lodged in Broker's-alley, Drury-lane ; and the friends and relations of Kidden, assured in their own minds of his innocence, went thither to inquire after her character, which they found to be so totally abandoned, that they had no doubt but that the whole was a pre-concerted plot for his destruction.

When the trial came on, Mary Jones, and two thief-takers, swore positively to the unhappy lad, who was capitally convicted, and sentenced to die ; and a report was industriously circulated that he had committed several robberies as a footpad : but this was only the effort of villany, to depreciate the character of an innocent man, in order to receive the reward for his conviction, which was actually paid.

After sentence of death was passed, Kidden made a constant, uniform, and solemn avowal of his innocence. He told how the thief-takers had imposed on him ; and his tale was universally credited, when it was too late to save him from the fatal consequences of their villainous devices.

Repeated applications were made that mercy might be extended to the unhappy convict ; but these were in vain. The warrant for his execution arrived, and he resigned himself to his fate in the most becoming manner, lamenting

the present disgrace that his relations would undergo, but entertaining no doubt that the decrees of Providence would soon give ample testimony of his innocence.

He resigned his innocent life to the executioner, after pathetically addressing the multitude, and declaring again his innocence, in the year 1756, greatly lamented.

From a comparison of the circumstances of the case of Kidden, and other miserable youths whom this destructive gang, under pretence of being thief-takers, for the ends of justice, had given evidence against, we fear there is too much reason to believe that many more than those we have mentioned, fell victims to their crimes.

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### CHRISTOPHER WOODLAND,

#### *Another Victim of the horrid gang of Thief takers.*

THE cases of the wretched men who fell victims to the horrid plots of the thief-takers already mentioned, shew how many arts had been practised in seeking the innocent blood of their fellow-creatures.

The fate of Woodland, however, is deserving of much less pity than that of Kidden; the former consented to join in a burglary, which, though a trap laid for him, it proved that he was a man, ready to join any hardened gang of robbers.

They thus practised upon Woodland. Berry, the head of the gang, hired a single room of one Mr. Eveness, on Saffron-hill, ostensibly for James Egan, another of the gang. They put into this room some mean articles of furniture, and thus made the place suited to their purpose. Then Berry, M'Daniel, Egan, and Mary Jones, who had now become associated with them, ordered Blee to procure a victim, who might join some of them in robbing this room.

Blee, ever the drudge of the gang, pitched upon a half-witted fellow, the immediate subject of the present enquiry.

Egan, who had been a shoemaker, took possession of

the room, and hammered upon his lapstone ; not to mend soles, but to make souls arise from the bodies of his victims. Blee intoxicated Woodland, and then proposed what he called a plan to ensure the road to wealth. The sot, delighted with the offer, readily joined him in breaking into the shoemaker's room, where he was assured a large booty might be obtained.

Woodland committed the burglary, and was followed by Blee. He seized some bundles of clothes, placed there for the purpose, and was advised by his deceitful companion, to offer them for sale to Mary Jones. The gang rushed into her apartment, seized Woodland, but permitted Blee to escape. They took him before a justice of the peace, swore to the burglary, and consequently he was committed to Newgate.

As he did not appear to be an old offender, no other offence being laid to his charge, the capital part of the indictment, the burglary, was not pressed ; and he was found guilty alone of stealing.

This disappointed the gang of their reward, as he was sentenced to transportation only, and was sent to America.

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### WILLIAM CANNICOTT,

*Executed at Tyburn, September 20, 1756, for the  
Murder of his Wife.*

WILLIAM CANNICOTT was about forty years of age, and had been a livery servant from a youth, though his parents, who were substantial people, would fain have had him learn a trade.

When he was about twenty years old, he married Dorothy Tamlyn, a woman near forty years of age, with whom he had lived fellow-servant ; and soon after he set her up in a little haberdasher's shop, in Boswell-court. This shop she kept near ten years, and Cannicott being then servant to the late admiral Matthews, took a house

for her in East-street, and furnished it to be let out into lodgings.

Till about three years ago, he says, they lived peaceably, if not happily, together ; but it then happened, that in his absence, and without his knowledge, she sold two suits of his best clothes, though she had no reasonable pretence or provocation ; for he constantly gave her all his money, and she received, without any account, the profits that arose from the house. Cannicott was naturally passionate, and coming in haste one day to put on a suit of these clothes upon a particular occasion, he was so exasperated to find they had been sold by his wife, that he swore he would never come home to her any more.

It is probable, that this incident only gave colour to break a connection which he had no inclination to continue ; for he kept the resolution which he had declared in his passion, after that passion had subsided ; and when he was next out of place, which happened soon afterwards, he took himself a lodging in a distant part of the town, instead of going home to his wife, though he still continued to give her his money.

In this new neighbourhood he was of course considered as a single man ; a mistake that he was rather desirous to countenance than correct, because he knew that as a single man he was more likely to get into place than as married ; and indeed he was soon after hired to a gentleman in Cavendish-square, who declared that he would not hire a married man ; so that he was from that time under a kind of necessity to deny that he had a wife. After the first deviation from truth a man is almost necessarily, though insensibly, led to deviate farther and farther from the strait path at every step. As the women were less upon their guard against him, he was encouraged to indulge himself in the pleasure of such addresses as would not otherwise have been permitted ; and thus engagements are often brought on which were never formally designed, and connections are gradually strengthened merely because the difficulty of breaking them gradually increases. Among Cannicott's fellow servants there was a young woman that waited upon his master's

daughter, to whom he found a secret pleasure in recommending himself by many little acts of kindness, with which he saw she was pleased, and which he therefore repeated with greater assiduity and delight, though he declares he had then no design to seduce her, either as a mistress or a wife; yet his regard for her grew every day more tender, as he became more acquainted with her. He loved her, he says, not only for her person but for her mind, which was continually improved by the free conversation of her amiable lady. Still, however, he avoided every thing that had a direct tendency to make him be regarded as a lover; but here happened two incidents, which, joining with his inclinations, and the facility with which he saw it might be gratified, overbore all his resolutions. As love is always vigilant and suspicious, he discovered that his master had a design upon her virtue, and that at the same time she was addressed by a young man, who would have married her, and whom he thought she would consent to marry, if he did not profit of the influence he had over her by soliciting her for himself. In this situation he determined to gain her if it was possible, let the consequence be what it would. From this time his courtship commenced, and the girl sincerely believing he had no other connexion, consented to have him. When this was agreed, he resolved to leave his place, because the girl would not consent to conceal her marriage from her lady, nor would her lady part with her on that account, and because his master would notwithstanding think it a sufficient reason to part with him. In pursuance of this scheme he hired himself to the earl of Darnley, and on the third of June, 1754, he married his new wife at Mary-le-bone chapel.

He went into lord Darnley's place the same day, and his wife continued in her's a twelvemonth after they were married, and might have continued there till now, if her master had not pursued his design with more importunity than before, notwithstanding the declaration of her marriage, which, upon that account, as well as others, she had determined to make as soon as it should have taken place. As these solicitations made her very uneasy she complained of them to her husband, and he advised her to give

warning. She immediately followed his counsel, but staid five months longer to oblige her lady, who was very desirous she should go with her to Bath. When they came back, and her master found that she was determined to go, and that another maid had been engaged in her stead, he was so enraged at his disappointment, that he would scarce suffer her to stay long enough in the house to put her clothes together. When she was come away Cannicott hired a lodging for her as near him as he could, that he might spend every leisure minute in her company ; and he perceived, he says, with unspeakable pleasure, an excessive fondness in her which increased his own ; and he believes it is impossible for any two persons to be more happy in each other than they were, except when his fears anticipated her discovery of his former marriage.

This event so much dreaded, and so carefully guarded against, in a short time put an end to their felicity, and made the wife, who was deserted, yet more wretched than before.

One Hobson, a coachman in lord Darnley's family, knew Cannicott when he lived in another place, and knew also his first wife. It happened, that the wife of this Hobson had become acquainted with some person in the house where Cannicott had taken a lodging for his second wife, and thus discovered the secret. His second wife, however, she did not know where to find, for she had removed into the country when Cannicott went out of town with his lord, and was not yet returned ; but word was immediately sent to his first wife, who took every opportunity to haunt and reproach her husband with his new connection. This, he says, made him extremely wretched, not only because it was irksome in itself, but because it kept him in continual dread and solicitude, lest they should find out his favourite, and interrupt her peace, as they had interrupted his. As his fears increased, so did his caution ; he took another lodging for his young wife, whom he calls Nanny, at a considerable distance, and required her never to call, on any pretence, where she had lodged before ; with this request, he says, she cheer-

fully complied, without knowing or enquiring why it was made; but her old landlady once meeting her by chance, dogged her home, and immediately acquainted Hobson and his wife where she lodged, who with great expedition sent Mrs. Cannicott to acquaint her with her situation. Here was an end to all the stolen felicity at once; Nanny, at the next interview, reproached him: but she reproached him, he says, with such tenderness as shewed less anger than love. She was overwhelmed with grief, and, as often as she could find words, she intreated, that he would never attempt to see her more, but leave her to struggle alone with her misfortunes, and endeavour to get into another place. He could not consent to leave her, but promised to procure her a place. This indeed he attempted, but without success; for it was necessary to refer to her last master for a character, and he besides telling that she was married, suggested several faults that might conceal the true reason why she left the place. She then urged him to let her go abroad, but this he opposed with the utmost vehemence; and declared that he would destroy himself if she attempted it.

She had twice removed her lodging, and was still followed by Mrs. Cannicott, who acquainted the neighbourhood with her story. Nanny, therefore, would not suffer Cannicott to visit her in her lodgings, where it was known she could not be his lawful wife; and though he persuaded her sometimes to meet him early in the morning, yet, as it was chiefly in the street, that afforded him no pleasure.

Hobson and his wife in the mean time fomented the difference between Cannicott and his first wife, telling her that he had received his wages, and urging her to solicit him for more money. This she did, with threats of prosecution if he refused, saying, that she could and would hang him for having two wives.

As he believed this to be in her power, he restrained his aversion, for fear she should execute it, and therefore appointed to meet her on Thursday evening at the Red Lion in Berkeley-square, to take a little walk. He declares, that in making this appointment he had no design upon

her life, but that being obliged to put up at a public-house near Tottenham-court, by a sudden storm of thunder and rain, she asked him for money, which he refusing to give her, she had recourse first to expostulation, then reproach, and then threatening, which threw him into a dreadful rage, in the midst of which he broke away from her, and she followed him. That as they were going down stairs he saw a cord hang over the banisters, upon which he conceived a design to use it as an instrument to murder her, and therefore snatched it up and put it into his pocket; when they got out of the house, they went towards home, though the storm increased, and it thundered and lightened very much. Her passion had probably abated while his was at the height, as it often happens that the mind relents immediately after expressions of too keen reproach, which render a reconciliation on the other side for a time impossible. This appears to have been the case here, for she twice desired him to let down his hat, that the lightning might not hurt his eyes; this he refused the first time, but the last time seemed to consent, and bidding her go on, took that opportunity not to flap his hat, but to prepare the cord for the murder; and it is surely an horrid aggravation of his guilt, that he made the voice of kindness a signal to silence it for ever, and prepared to perpetrate the greatest injury against his wife, while he seemed to be profiting by her solicitude to do him good. When he had formed the cord to his purpose, having tied a noose in one end, and passed the other end through it, he walked apace after her, and coming behind her, threw it over her head and drew it tight. She immediately seized it with her hands, and struggled so hard that the cord broke, and he feared she would overpower him. He then thought of his scissars, and drawing them from the sheath, he thrust them many times into her throat and body, upon which her grasp relaxed, and she soon expired.

As soon as he saw she was dead, his passion subsided in a moment, and he was so struck with the horror of what he had done, that he fell down in a swoon, though

he cannot tell how long he continued in it ; when he came to himself he began to think how he might conceal the fact ; he stripped her, and scattered her clothes, which he cut to pieces, in different places as he went along.

About ten o'clock he got home extremely wet, and immediately retiring to the place where he cleaned his glasses, he washed the blood from the ruffles and sleeves of his shirt, and putting it into the foul clothes bag, went to bed. The next morning, his lordship being out of town, he went out and bought a new pair of scissars, having left the others in the field near the body, and sold the ring and buckles, which he brought away ; he did not return till night, and was then told by his fellow servants, that justice Fielding had sent for him upon a suspicion of murder, and advised, if he was guilty, not to come in ; but he insisted upon his innocence, and when Mr. Welch came soon after, he was denied. Next morning, however, he went with the butler to Mr. Barnes, the high constable, in order, as he said, to clear himself.

He was examined by the justices, and though many circumstances appeared against him, yet the first day he confessed nothing ; but the next day, finding that they had found out his second wife, and confined her upon suspicion that she had been accessory to the fact, he immediately accused himself, that she might be discharged ; and having fully disclosed the whole affair, he pleaded guilty at his trial, and died with great penitence and resignation.

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### EUGENE ARAM,

*Executed at York, August 6, 1759, for a Murder discovered Fourteen Years after being committed, and his body hung in chains in Knaresborough Forest.*

THE following is, perhaps, the most remarkable and extraordinary trial in our whole Calendar.

The criminal was a man of extraordinary endowments,

and of good education ; and therefore no one suspected him of having committed this horrid crime, which was discovered in a most remarkable manner.

Mr. Eugene Aram was born in a village called Netherdale, in Yorkshire, in the year 1704, of an ancient family ; one of his ancestors having served the office of high sheriff for that county, in the reign of Edward III. The vicissitudes of fortune had, however, reduced them ; as we find the father of Eugene, a poor, but honest man, by profession, a gardener ; in which humble walk in life he was, nevertheless, greatly respected.

The sweat of his brow alone, we must conclude, was insufficient both to rear and educate his offspring. From the high erudition of the unfortunate subject under consideration, he may be truly called a prodigy. On the very slender stock of learning, found in a day-school, he built a fabric, which would have been worthy the shoulders of our literary Atlas, Dr. Johnson. It may be truly said, that like M<sup>c</sup>Nally, the celebrated Irish barrister and admirable dramatist, he was self-taught. As the one excelled in his profession, an usher to an academy ; so does the other, as an advocat   at the bar of justice.

In the infancy of Aram, his parents removed to another village called Shelton, near Newby, in the said county ; and when about six years of age, his father, who had laid by a small sum from his weekly labour, made a purchase of a little cottage in Bondgate, near Rippon.

When he was about thirteen or fourteen years of age, he went to his father in Newby, and attended him in the family there, till the death of sir Edward Blackett. It was in the house of this gentleman, to whom his father was gardener, that his propensity for literature first appeared. He was indeed always of a solitary disposition, and uncommonly fond of retirement and books ; and here he enjoyed all the advantages of leisure and privacy. He applied himself at first chiefly to mathematical studies, in which he made a considerable proficiency.

At about sixteen years of age, he was sent to London to the house of Mr. Christopher Blackett, whom he served for some time in the capacity of book-keeper. After con-

tinuing here a year, or more, he was taken with the small-pox, and suffered severely under that distemper. He afterwards returned into Yorkshire, in consequence of an invitation from his father, and there continued to prosecute his studies, but found in polite literature much greater charms than in the mathematics; which occasioned him now chiefly to apply himself to poetry, history, and antiquities. After this he was invited to Netherdale, where he engaged in a school, and married. But this marriage proved an unhappy connection; for to the misconduct of his wife he afterwards attributed the misfortunes that befel him. In the mean while, having perceived his deficiency in the learned languages, he applied himself to the grammatical study of the Latin and Greek tongues; after which he read, with great avidity and diligence, all the Latin classics, historians and poets. He then went through the Greek Testament; and lastly, ventured upon Hesiod, Homer, Theocritus, Herodotus, and Thucydides, together with all the Greek tragedians. In 1734, William Norton, Esq. a gentleman who had a friendship for him, invited him to Knaresborough. Here he acquired the knowledge of the Hebrew, and read the Pentateuch in that language. In 1744, he returned to London, and served the Rev. Mr. Plainblanc, as usher in Latin and writing, in Piccadilly; and with this gentleman's assistance, he acquired the knowledge of the French language. He was afterwards employed as an usher and tutor in several different parts of England; during which time he became acquainted with heraldry and botany. He also ventured upon Chaldee and Arabic, the former of which he found easy from its near connection with the Hebrew.

He then investigated the Celtic, as far as possible, in all its dialects: and having begun to form collections, and make comparisons between the Celtic, the English, the Latin, the Greek, and the Hebrew, and found a great affinity between them, he resolved to proceed through all these languages, and to form a comparative Lexicon. But, amid these learned labours and enquiries, it appears, that Aram committed a crime, which could not

naturally have been expected from a man of so studious a turn, as the inducement that led him to it was merely gain of wealth, of which the scholar is seldom covetous. On the 8th of February, 1745, he, in conjunction with a man named Richard Houseman, murdered one Daniel Clarke, a shoe-maker at Knaresborough.

This unfortunate man having lately married a woman of a good family, ostentatiously circulated a report that his wife was entitled to a considerable fortune, which he should soon receive. Hereupon Aram, and Richard Houseman, conceiving hopes of making advantage of this circumstance, persuaded Clarke to make an ostentatious shew of his own riches, to induce his wife's relations to give him that fortune of which he had boasted. There was sagacity, if not honesty, in this advice, for the world in general are more free to assist persons in affluence than those in distress.

Clarke was easily induced to comply with a hint so agreeable to his own desires; on which, he borrowed, and bought on credit, a large quantity of silver plate, with jewels, watches, rings, &c. He told the persons of whom he purchased, that a merchant in London had sent him an order to buy such plate for exportation; and no doubt was entertained of his credit till his sudden disappearance in February, 1745, when it was imagined that he had gone abroad, or at least to London, to dispose of his ill-acquired property.

When Clarke was possessed of these goods, Aram and Houseman determined to murder him, in order to share the booty; and, on the night of the 8th of February, 1745, they persuaded Clarke to walk with them in the fields, in order to consult with them on the proper method to dispose of the effects.

On this plan they walked into a field, at a small distance from the town, well known by the name of St. Robert's Cave. When they came into this field, Aram and Clarke went over a hedge towards the cave, and when they had got within six or seven yards of it, Houseman (by the light of the moon) saw Aram strike Clarke several times, and at length beheld him fall, but never saw him

afterwards. This was the state of the affair, if Houseman's testimony on the trial might be credited.

The murderers going home, shared Clarke's ill-gotten treasure, the half of which Houseman concealed in his garden for a twelvemonth, and then took it to Scotland, where he sold it. In the mean time Aram carried his share to London, where he sold it to a Jew, and then engaged himself as an usher at an academy in Piccadilly ; where, in the intervals of his duty in attending on the scholars, he made himself master of the French language, and acquired some knowledge of the Arabic, and other eastern languages.

After this, he was usher at other schools in different parts of the kingdom : but, as he did not correspond with his friends in Yorkshire, it was presumed that he was dead.

Thus had nearly fourteen years passed on without the smallest clue being found to account for the sudden exit of Clarke.

In the year 1758 a labourer was employed to dig for stone to supply a lime-kiln, at a place called Thistle-hill, near Knaresborough, and having dug about two feet deep, he found the bones of a human body, and the bones being still joined to each other by the ligatures of the joints, the body appeared to have been buried double. This accident immediately became the subject of general curiosity and enquiry. Some hints had been formerly thrown out by Aram's wife, that Clarke was murdered ; and it was well remembered, that his disappearance was very sudden.

This occasioned Aram's wife to be sent for, as was also the coroner, and an inquisition was entered into ; it being believed, that the skeleton found was that of Daniel Clarke. Mrs. Aram declared, that she believed Clarke had been murdered by her husband and Richard Houseman. The latter when he was brought before the coroner, appeared to be in great confusion, trembling, changing colour, and faltering in his speech during the examination. The coroner desired him to take up one of the bones, probably to observe what further effect that might produce ; and Houseman, accordingly taking

up one of the bones, said, "This is no more Dan. Clarke's bone than it is mine."

These words were pronounced in such a manner as convinced those present, that they proceeded not from Houseman's supposition that Clarke was alive, but from his certain knowledge where his bones really lay. Accordingly, after some evasions, he said that Clarke was murdered by Eugene Aram, and that the body was buried in St. Robert's cave, near Knaresborough. He added further, that Clarke's head lay to the right, in the turn, at the entrance of the cave; and a skeleton was accordingly found there exactly in the posture he described. In consequence of this confession, search was made for Aram, and at length he was discovered in the situation of usher to an academy at Lynn in Norfolk. He was brought from thence to York Castle; and on the 18th of August, 1759, was brought to trial at the county assizes. He was found guilty on the testimony of Richard Houseman, who being arraigned, and acquitted, became an evidence against Aram; and whose testimony was corroborated by Mrs. Aram, and strong circumstantial evidence. The plunder which Aram was supposed to have derived from the murder was not estimated at more than one hundred and sixty pounds.

His defence, for ingenuity and ability, would have done credit to the best lawyers at the bar. He thus addressed the court and jury:

"My lord, I know not whether it is of right, or through some indulgence of your lordship, that I am allowed the liberty at this bar, and at this time, to attempt a defence, incapable and uninstructed as I am to speak. Since, while I see so many eyes upon me, so numerous and awful a concourse, fixed with attention, and filled with I know not what expectancy, I labour not with guilt, my lord, but with perplexity. For having never seen a court but this; being wholly unacquainted with law, the customs of the bar, and all judiciary proceedings, I fear I shall be so little capable of speaking with propriety in this place, that it exceeds my hope if I shall be able to speak at all.

“ I have heard, my lord, the indictment read, wherein I find myself charged with the highest crime, with an enormity I am altogether incapable of; a fact, to the commission of which there goes far more insensibility of heart, more profligacy of morals, than ever fell to my lot. And nothing possibly could have admitted a presumption of this nature, but a depravity not inferior to that imputed to me. However, as I stand indicted at your lordship’s bar, and have heard what is called evidence adduced in support of such a charge, I very humbly solicit your lordship’s patience, and beg the hearing of this respectable audience, while I, single and unskilful, destitute of friends, and unassisted by counsel, say something, perhaps, like argument, in my defence. I shall consume but little of your lordship’s time; what I have to say will be short, and this brevity, probably, will be the best part of it: however, it is offered with all possible regard, and the greatest submission to your lordship’s consideration, and that of this honourable court.

“ First, my lord, the whole tenor of my conduct in life contradicts every particular of the indictment. Yet had I never said this, did not my present circumstances extort it from me, and seem to make it necessary. Permit me here, my lord, to call upon malignity itself, so long and cruelly busied in this prosecution, to charge upon me any immorality, of which prejudice was not the author. No, my lord, I concerted no schemes of fraud; projected no violence, injured no man’s person or property; my days were honestly laborious, my nights intensely studious. And I humbly conceive my notice of this, especially at this time, will not be thought impertinent or unseasonable; but, at least, deserving some attention, because, my lord, that any person, after a temperate use of life, a series of thinking and acting regularly, and without a single deviation from sobriety, should plunge into the very depth of profligacy, precipitately, and at once, is altogether improbable and unprecedented, and absolutely inconsistent with the course of things. Mankind is never corrupted at once; villany is always progressive, and declines from right, step after step, till every regard of

probity is lost, and every sense of all moral obligation totally perishes.

“ Again, my lord, a suspicion of this kind, which nothing but malevolence could entertain, and ignorance propagate, is violently opposed by my very situation at that time, with respect to health ; for but a little space before I had been confined to my bed, and suffered under a very long and severe disorder, and was not able, for half a year together, so much as to walk. The distemper left me indeed, yet slowly, and in part ; but so macerated, so enfeebled, that I was reduced to crutches ; and so far from being well about the time I am charged with this fact, I have never, to this day, perfectly recovered. \* Could then a person in this condition take any thing into his head so unlikely, so extravagant ? I, past the vigour of my age, feeble and valetudinary, with no inducement to engage, no ability to accomplish, no weapon wherewith to perpetrate such a fact ; without interest,—without power,—without motive,—without means.

“ Besides, it must needs occur to every one, that an action of this atrocious nature is never heard of but, when its springs are laid open, it appears that it was to support some indolence, or supply some luxury ; to satisfy some avarice, or oblige some malice ; to prevent some real, or some imaginary want ; yet I lay not under the influence of any of these. Surely, my lord, I may consistent with both truth and modesty affirm thus much ; and none who have any veracity, and knew me, will ever question this.

“ In the second place, the disappearance of Clarke is suggested as an argument of his being dead ; but the uncertainty of such an inference from that, and the fallibility of all conclusions of such a sort, from such a circumstance, are too obvious, and too notorious, to require instances ; yet, superseding many, permit me to procure a very recent one, and that afforded by this castle.

“ In June, 1757, William Thompson, for all the vigilance of this place, in open day-light, and double ironed, made his escape ; and notwithstanding an immediate enquiry set on foot, the strictest search, and all adver-

tisement, was never seen or heard of since. If then Thompson got off unseen, through all these difficulties, how very easy was it for Clarke, when none of them opposed him? But what would be thought of a prosecution commenced against any one seen last with Thompson?

“Permit me next, my lord, to observe a little upon the bones which have been discovered. It is said, which perhaps is saying very far, that these are the skeleton of a man. It is possible, indeed it may; but is there any certain known criterion, which incontestibly distinguishes the sex in human bones? Let it be considered, my lord, whether the ascertaining of this point ought not to precede any attempt to identify them.

“The place of their deposition, too, claims much more attention than is commonly bestowed upon it; for, of all places in the world, none could have mentioned any one, wherein there was greater certainty of finding human bones than a hermitage, except he should point out a church-yard: hermitages, in time past, being not only places of religious retirement, but of burial too. And it has scarce, or never been heard of, but that every cell now known contains, or contained, these relics of humanity; some mutilated, and some entire. I do not inform, but give me leave to remind your lordship, that here sat solitary sanctity, and here the hermit, or the anchoress, hoped that repose for their bones, when dead, they here enjoyed when living,

“All the while, my lord, I am sensible this is known to your lordship, and many in this court, better than to me. But it seems necessary to my case, that others, who have not at all, perhaps, adverted to things of this nature, and may have concern in my trial, should be made acquainted with it. Suffer me then, my lord, to produce a few of many evidences, that these cells were used as repositories of the dead, and to enumerate a few in which human bones have been found as it happened in this question; lest, to some, that accident might appear extraordinary, and consequently occasion prejudice.

“1. The bones, as was supposed, of the Saxon St.

Dubritius, were discovered buried in his cell at Guy's cliff near Warwick, as appears from the authority of sir William Dugdale.

" 2. The bones thought to be those of the anchoress Rosia, were but lately discovered in a cell at Royston, entire, fair, and undecayed, though they must have lain interred for several centuries, as is proved by Dr. Stukely.

" 3. But my own county, nay, almost this neighbourhood, supplies another instance, for, in January, 1747, were found, by Mr. Stovin, accompanied by a reverend gentleman, the bones, in part, of some recluse, in the cell at Lindholm, near Hatfield. They were believed to be those of William of Lindholm, a hermit, who had long made this cave his habitation.

" 4. In February, 1744, part of Wooburn-abbey being pulled down, a large portion of a corpse appeared, even with the flesh on, and which bore cutting with a knife; though it is certain this had lain above two hundred years, and how much longer is doubtful; for this abbey was founded in 1145, and dissolved in 1538 or 9.

" What would have been said, what believed, if this had been an accident to the bones in question?

" Farther, my lord, it is not yet out of living memory, that a little distance from Knaresborough, in a field, part of the manor of the worthy and patriot baronet who does that borough the honour to represent it in parliament, were found, in digging for gravel, not one human skeleton only, but five or six deposited side by side, with each an urn placed at its head, as your lordship knows was usual in ancient interments.

" About the same time, and in another field, almost close to this borough, was discovered also, in searching for gravel, another human skeleton, but the piety of the same worthy gentleman ordered both pits to be filled up again, commendably unwilling to disturb the dead.

" Is the invention of these bones forgotten then, or industriously concealed, that the discovery of those in question may appear the more singular and extraordinary? Whereas, in fact, there is nothing extraordinary in it. My lord, almost every place contains such remains. In

fields, in hills, in highway sides, in commons, lie frequent and unsuspected bones. And our present allotments for rest for the departed is but of some centuries.

“ Another particular seems to claim a little of your lordship’s notice, and that of the gentlemen of the jury, which is, that perhaps no example occurs of more than one skeleton being found in one cell : and in the cell in question was found but one ; agreeably, in this, to the peculiarity of every other known cell in Britain. Not the invention of one skeleton, but of two, would have appeared suspicious and uncommon. But it seems another skeleton had been discovered by some labourer, which was full as confidently averred to be Clarke’s as this. My lord, must some of the living, if it promotes some interest, be made answerable for all the bones that earth has concealed, and chance exposed ? and might not a place where bones lay be mentioned by a person by chance, as well as found by a labourer by chance ? or is it more criminal accidentally to name where bones lie, than accidentally to find where they lie ?

“ Here, too, is a human skull produced, which is fractured : but was this the cause, or was it the consequence of death ? Was it owing to violence, or was it the effect of natural decay ? If it was violence, was that violence before or after death ? My lord, in May, 1732, the remains of William, lord archbishop of this province, were taken up, by permission, in this cathedral, and the bones of the skull were found broken ; yet certainly he died by no violence offered to him alive, that could occasion that fracture there.

“ Let it be considered, my lord, that, upon the dissolution of religious houses, and the commencement of the reformation, the ravages of those times affected both the living and the dead. In search after imaginary treasures, coffins were broken up, graves and vaults dug open, monuments ransacked, and shrines demolished ; and it ceased about the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. I entreat your lordship, suffer not the violence, the depredations, and the iniquities of those times, to be imputed to this.

“ Moreover, what gentleman here is ignorant that Knaresborough had a castle ; which, though now a ruin, was once considerable both for its strength and garrison ? All know it was vigorously besieged by the arms of the parliament ; at which siege, in sallies, conflicts, flights, pursuits, many fell in all the places round it, and where they fell were buried ; for every place, my lord, is burial earth in war ; and many, questionless, of these rest yet unknown, whose bones futurity shall discover.

“ I hope, with all imaginable submission, that what has been said will not be thought impertinent to this indictment ; and that it will be far from the wisdom, the learning, and the integrity of this place, to impute to the living what zeal in its fury may have done ; what nature may have taken off, and piety interred ; or what war alone may have destroyed, alone deposited.

“ As to the circumstances that have been raked together, I have nothing to observe, but that all circumstances whatever are precarious, and have been but too frequently found lamentably fallible ; even the strongest have failed. They may rise to the utmost degree of probability, yet they are but probability still. Why need I name to your lordship the two Harrisons recorded by Dr. Howel, who both suffered upon circumstances, because of the sudden disappearance of their lodger, who was in credit, had contracted debts, borrowed money, and went off unseen, and returned a great many years after their execution ? Why name the intricate affair of Jaques du Moulin, under king Charles II. related by a gentleman who was counsel for the crown ; and why the unhappy Coleman, who suffered innocent, though convicted upon positive evidence, and whose children perished for want, because the world uncharitably believed the father guilty ? Why mention the perjury of Smith, incautiously admitted king’s evidence, who, to screen himself, equally accused Faircloth and Loveday of the murder of Dun ; the first of whom, in 1749, was executed at Winchester ; and Loveday was about to suffer at Reading, had not Smith been ~~proved~~ proved perjured, to the satisfaction of the court, by the surgeon of Gosport hospital ?

“ Now, my lord, having endeavoured to shew that the whole of this process is altogether repugnant to every part of my life ; that it is inconsistent with my condition of health about that time ; that no rational inference can be drawn, that a person is dead who suddenly disappears ; that hermitages were the constant repositories of the bones of a recluse : that the proofs of this are well authenticated ; that the revolutions in religion, or the fortune of war, have mangled, or buried the dead, the conclusion remains, perhaps, no less reasonably than impatiently wished for. I, at last, after a year’s confinement, equal to either fortune, put myself upon the candour, the justice, and the humanity of your lordship, and upon yours, my countrymen, gentlemen of the jury.”

Judge Noel, before whom he was tried, summed up the evidence with great perspicuity ; and in his comments on the prisoner’s defence, declared it to be one of the most ingenious pieces of reasoning that had ever fallen under his notice. The jury, with little hesitation, found him *guilty*, and he received sentence of death.

After his conviction, he confessed the justice of his sentence to two clergymen, who were directed to attend him in York castle, to whom he acknowledged that he murdered Clarke. Being asked by one of them, what was his motive for committing that action, he answered, that “ he suspected Clarke of having an unlawful commerce with his wife ; that he was persuaded at the time when he committed the murder, he did right ; but that since he thought it wrong.” In hopes of eluding the course of justice, he made an attempt upon his own life, by cutting his arm in two places with a razor, which he had concealed for that purpose. On a table, in his cell, was found the following paper, containing his reasons for the above attempt :—“ What am I better than my fathers ? To die is natural and necessary. Perfectly sensible of this, I fear no more to die than I did to be born. But the manner of it is something which should, in my opinion, be decent and manly. I think I have regarded both these points. Certainly nobody has a better right to dispose of a man’s life than himself : and he, not

others, should determine how. As for any indignities offered to my body, or silly reflections on my faith and morals, they are (as they always were) things indifferent to me. I think, though contrary to the common way of thinking, I wrong no man by this, and hope it is not offensive to that eternal Being that formed me and the world : and, as by this I injure no man, no man can be reasonably offended. I solicitously recommend myself to that eternal and Almighty Being, the God of nature, if I have done amiss. But perhaps I have not; and I hope this thing will never be imputed to me. Though I am now stained by malevolence, and suffer by prejudice, I hope to rise fair and unblemished. My life was not polluted, my morals irreproachable, and my opinions orthodox. I slept sound till three o'clock, awaked, and then writ these lines :

“ Come, pleasing rest, eternal slumbers fall,  
 “ Seal mine, that once must seal the eyes of all ;  
 “ Calm and composed my soul her journey takes,  
 “ No guilt that troubles, and no heart that aches ;  
 “ Adieu ! thou sun, all bright like her arise,  
 “ Adieu ! fair friends, and all that's good and wise.”

These lines, found with the following letter were supposed to have been written by Aram just before he attempted his own life :

“ *My dear friend,*

“ Before this reaches you I shall be no more a living man in this world, though at present in perfect bodily health ; but who can describe the horrors of mind which I suffer at this instant ? Guilt ! the guilt of blood shed without any provocation, without any cause, but that of filthy lucre, pierces my conscience with wounds that give the most poignant pains ! 'Tis true, the consciousness of my horrid guilt has given me frequent interruptions in the midst of my business, or pleasures ; but yet I have found means to stifle its clamours, and contrived a momentary remedy for the disturbance it gave me, by applying to the bottle or the bowl, or diversions, or company, or business ; sometimes one, and sometimes the other, as opportunity

offered : but now all these, and all other amusements, are at an end, and I am left forlorn, helpless, and destitute of every comfort ; for I have nothing now in view but the certain destruction both of my soul and body. My conscience will now no longer suffer itself to be hoodwinked or brow-beat : it has now got the mastery ; it is my accuser, judge, and executioner ; and the sentence it pronounceth against me is more dreadful than that I heard from the bench, which only condemned my body to the pains of death, which are soon over ; but conscience tells me plainly, that she will summon me before another tribunal, where I shall have neither power nor means to stifle the evidence she will there bring against me ; and that the sentence which shall then be denounced, will not only be irreversible, but will condemn my soul to torments that will know no end

“ O ! had I but hearkened to the advice which dear ought experience has enabled me to give ! I should not now have been plunged into that dreadful gulph of despair which I find it impossible to extricate myself from ; and therefore my soul is filled with horror inconceivable. I see both God and man my enemies ; and in a few hours shall be exposed a public spectacle for the world to gaze at. Can you conceive any condition more horrible than mine ? O, no ! it cannot be ! I am determined, therefore, to put a short end to trouble I am no longer able to bear, and prevent the executioner, by doing his business with my own hand, and shall by this means at least prevent the shame and disgrace of a public exposure ; and leave the care of my soul in the hands of eternal mercy. Wishing you all health, happiness and prosperity, I am, to the last moment of my life, your's, with the sincerest regard,

“ EUGÈNE ARAM.”

When the morning appointed for his execution arrived, the keeper went to take him out of his cell, when he was surprised to find him almost expiring through loss of blood, having cut his left arm above the elbow near the wrist, with a razor ; but he missed the artery. A

surgeon being sent for, soon stopped the bleeding, and when he was taken to the place of execution he was perfectly sensible, though so very weak as to be unable to join in devotion with the clergyman who attended him. .

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## THEODORE GARDELLE,

*Executed in the Hay-market, April 4, 1761, for Murder.*

THIS was a murder which also considerably engaged the public mind. Though in the commission of the act itself, there may be some extenuation afforded to the unhappy man ; yet the means he took to conceal it, are attended with circumstances horrible to relate. We have to lament that the woman might not have met her death at his hands, had she allotted some discretion to the limits of her tongue—a weapon, we may call it, often goading a man to a frenzy of the mind, ending in horror. How earnestly would we intreat the weaker vessel, not to run rashly upon the stronger ; or, in other words, we would pray of females, to let their tongues move in unison with the comfort which, by nature, they were formed to accord to man.

Theodore Gardelle was a foreigner, a man of education and talents in his profession—the fine art of painting. That he was not a man of a bad disposition, or given to irregularities, appears from Mrs. King's receiving him back as an inmate, after he had once quitted her lodgings.

He was born at Geneva, a city which is famed for giving birth to great men, in both the arts and sciences. He chose the miniature style of painting, and having acquired its first rudiments, went to Paris, where he made great proficiency in the art. He then returned to his native place, and practised his profession for some years, with credit and emolument ; but, being unhappy in his domestic concerns, he repaired to London, and took

lodgings at Mrs. King's, in Leicester-fields, in the year 1760.

Some time afterwards, for the benefit of purer air, he removed to Knightsbridge, but finding that place too far from his business, he returned to his former residence, where he was pursuing his business until the fatal cause arose, which brought him to an ignominious death.

The particulars of this shocking transaction, we have collected, partly from evidence adduced on his trial, and partly from the repentant confession of the malefactor.

On Thursday the 19th of February, 1761, in the morning, the maid got up about seven o'clock and opened the fore parlour windows. There is a fore parlour and a back parlour, both have a door into the passage from the street-door, and there is also a door that goes out of one into the other : the back parlour was Mrs. King's bed-chamber, and the door which entered it from the passage was secured on the inside by a drop-bolt, and could not be opened on the outside when locked, though the drop-bolt was not down, because on the outside there was no key-hole. The door into the fore parlour was also secured on the inside by Mrs. King when she went to bed, and the door of the fore parlour into the passage was left open ; when the maid had entered the fore parlour by this door, and opened the windows, she went to the passage door of the back parlour where Mrs. King was in bed, and knocked, in order to get the key of the street-door, which Mrs. King took at night into her room. Mrs. King drew up the bolt, and the maid went in ; she took the key of the street-door which she saw lie upon the table by a looking-glass ; and her mistress then shut the passage door and dropped the bolt, and ordered the maid to open the door that communicated with the fore parlour, which she did, and went out ; she then kindled the fire in the fore parlour that it might be ready when her mistress arose, and about eight o'clock went up into Gardelle's room, where she found him in a red and green night-gown at work. He gave her two letters, a snuff-box, and a guinea, and desired her to deliver the letters, one of which was directed to one Mozier in the Hav-

market, and the other to a person who kept a snuff-shop at the next door, and to bring him from thence a penny-worth of snuff.

The girl took the messages, and went again to her mistress, telling her what Gardelle had desired her to do, to which her mistress replied, "Nanny, you can't go, for here is nobody to answer at the street-door;" the girl being willing to oblige Gardelle, or being for some reason desirous to go out, answered, "that Mr. Gardelle would come down and sit in the parlour till she came back." She then went again to Gardelle, and told him what objection her mistress had made, and what she had said to remove it. Gardelle then said he would come down, as she had proposed, and he did come down accordingly.

The girl immediately went on his errand, and left him in the parlour, shutting the street-door after her, and taking the key to let herself in when she came back.

Immediately after the girl was gone out, Mrs. King, hearing the tread of somebody in the parlour, called out, "Who is there?" and at the same time opened her chamber door. Gardelle was at a table, very near the door, having just then taken up a book that lay upon it, which happened to be a French grammar; he had some time before drawn Mr. King's picture, which she wanted to have made very handsome, and had teased him so much about it, that the effect was just contrary. It happened unfortunately that the first thing she said to him, when she saw it was he whom she had heard walking about in the room, was something reproachful about this picture: Gardelle was provoked at the insult; and as he spoke English very imperfectly, he, for want of a less improper expression, told her, with some warmth, "That she was an impertinent woman." This threw her into a transport of rage, and she gave him a violent blow with her fist on the breast, so violent, that he says he could not have thought such a blow could have been given by a woman; as soon as the blow was struck, she drew a little back, and at the same instant, he says, he laid his hand on her shoulder and pushed her from him, rather in contempt than anger, or with a design to hurt her; but her foot hap-

pening to catch in the floor-cloth, she fell backwards, and her head came with great force against the corner of the bedstead ; the blood immediately gushed from her mouth, not in a continued stream, but as if by different strokes of a pump ; he instantly ran to her and stooped to raise her, expressing his concern at the accident ; but she pushed him away, and threatened, though in a feeble and interrupted voice, to punish him for what he had done ; he was, he says, terrified exceedingly at the thought of being condemned for a criminal act upon her accusation, and again attempted to assist her by raising her up, as the blood still gushed from her mouth in great quantities ; but she still exerted all her strength to keep him off, and still cried out, mixing threats with her screams ; he then seized an ivory comb with a sharp taper point continued from the back, for adjusting the curls of her hair, which lay upon her toilet, and threatened her in his turn to prevent her crying out ; but she still continuing to cry out, though with a voice still fainter and fainter, he struck her with this instrument, probably in the throat, upon which the blood flowed from her mouth in yet greater quantities, and her voice was quite stopped : he then drew the bed-clothes over her, to prevent her blood from spreading on the floor, and to hide her from his sight ; he stood, he says, some time motionless by her, and then fell down by her side in a swoon. When he came to himself, he perceived the maid was come in ; he therefore went out of the room without examining the body to see if the unhappy wretch was quite dead, and his confusion was then so great, that he staggered against the wainscot, and hit his head, so as to raise a bump over his eye. As no person was in the house but the murdered and the murderer while the fact was committed, nothing can be known about it but from Gardelle's own account ; the circumstances related above, contain the sense of what he related both in his defence, and in the account which he drew up in French to leave behind him, taken together as far as they are consistent ; for there are in both several inconsistencies and absurdities, which give reason to suspect they are not true.

But however that be, all was quiet when the maid returned, which, she says, was in a quarter of an hour. She went first into the parlour where Gardelle had promised to wait till she came back, and saw nobody. She had paid three shillings and ninepence out of the guinea at the snuff-shop, where she delivered one of the letters; to the other she had no answer; and she laid the change and the snuff-box with the snuff she had fetched in it upon the table; then she went up into Gardelle's room and found nobody, and by turns she went into every room in the house, except her mistress's chamber, whither she never went, but when she called, and found nobody. She then made some water boil in the kitchen, made a bit of toast, and sat down to breakfast. In a short time she heard somebody walk over head in the parlour, or passage, and go up stairs, but did not go to see who it was. When she had breakfasted she went and stirred up the fire in the parlour against her mistress got up, and perceived that the snuff and change had been taken from the table; she then went up stairs again to Gardelle's room, to clean and set it to rights as she used to do, and it was now between ten and eleven o'clock. Soon after, Gardelle came down from the garret into his bed-chamber, which somewhat surprised her, as he could have no business that she knew of in the garret. When she first saw him, which was about an hour afterwards, she says, he looked confounded, and blushed exceedingly, and she perceived the bump over his eye, which had a black patch upon it as big as a shilling; he had also changed his dress, and had written another letter with which he sent her into Great Suffolk-street, and ordered her to wait for an answer; she went directly, and when she returned, which was in a quarter of an hour, she found him sitting in the parlour, and told him the gentleman would be there in the evening. He then told her that a gentleman had been in the room with her mistress, and that she was gone out with him in a hackney coach. It appears, by this, that Gardelle knew the maid was acquainted with his mistress's character. The maid, however, though she might have believed this story at another time, could

not believe it now ; she was not absent above a quarter of an hour ; she had left her mistress in bed, and the time would not have permitted her receiving a gentleman there, her being dressed, a coach being procured, and her having gone out in it ; besides, when she came back, she knew Gardelle was in her chamber. This gave her some suspicion, but it was of nothing' worse than that Gardelle and her mistress had been in bed together. She went, however, and looked at the door of the chamber, which opened into the parlour, and which she had opened by her mistress's order, and found it again locked. About one o'clock Mr. Wright's servant, Thomas Pelsey, came and told the maid at the door that the beds must be got ready, because his master intended to come hither in the evening, but did not go in. The maid still wondered that her mistress did not rise ; and supposed that, knowing she came in from her errand while Gardelle was yet in her chamber, she was ashamed to see her. Gardelle, in the mean time, was often up and down stairs ; and about three o'clock he sent her with a letter to one Broshet, at the Eagle and Pearl in Suffolk-street. As he knew that it would be extremely difficult to conceal the murder, if the maid continued in the house, he determined that he would, if possible, discharge her : but as the girl could not write, and as he was not sufficiently acquainted with our language to draw a proper receipt, he requested Mr. Broshet, in this letter, to write a receipt for him, and get the maid to sign it, directing her to deliver it to him when he paid her ; he did not, however, acquaint her with his design. When Mr. Broshet had read the letter, he asked her if she knew that Mr. Gardelle was to discharge her ; she said no. Why, says he, Mrs. King is gone out, and has given Mr. Gardelle orders to discharge you ; for she is to bring a woman home with her : at this the girl was surprised, and smiled, telling Broshet, that she knew her mistress was at home. The girl was now confirmed in her first thought, that her mistress was ashamed to see her again ; and thus she accounted for the manner of her dismissal. She returned between three and four to Gardelle, whom she found sitting in

the parlour with a gentleman whose name she did not know : she continued in the house till between six and seven o'clock in the evening, and then Gardelle paid her six shillings for a fortnight and two days wages, and gave her five or six shillings over, upon which she delivered him the receipt that Broshet had written, took her box and went away. As she was going out, Mr. Wright's servant came again to the door, and she told him that she was discharged, and going away ; that her mistress had been all day in her bed-room, without either victuals or drink, and that if he stayed a little after she was gone, he might see her come out : the man, however, could not stay, and Gardelle about seven o'clock was thus left alone in the house.

The first thing he did was to go into the chamber to the body, which upon examination, he found quite dead ; he therefore took off the blankets and sheets with which he had covered it, stripped off the shift, and laid the body quite naked upon the bed ; before this, he said, his linen was not stained ; but it was much stained by his removing the body. He then took the two blankets, the sheet, the coverlet, and one of the curtains, and put them into the water-tub in the back wash-house, to soak, they being all much stained with blood ; her shift he carried up stairs, and putting it in a bag, concealed it under his bed ; his own shirt, now bloody, he pulled off, and locked it up in a drawer of his bureau.

When all this was done, he went and sat down in the parlour, and soon after, it being about nine o'clock, Mr. Wright's servant came in without his master, who had changed his mind, and was gone to a gentleman's house in Castle-street. He went up into his room, the garret, and sat there till about seven o'clock : then he came down, and finding Gardelle still in the parlour, he asked if Mrs. King was come home, and who must sit up for her ? Gardelle said she was not come home, but that he would sit up for her.

In the morning, Friday, when Pelsey came down stairs, he again asked if Mrs. King was come home, and Gardelle told him that she had been at home, but was gone

again. He then asked how he came by the hurt on his eye ; and he said he got it by cutting some wood to light the fire in the morning. Pelsey then went about his master's business, and at night was again let in by Gardelle, who, upon being asked, said he would sit up for Mrs. King that night also.

In the morning, Saturday, Pelsey enquired again after Mrs. King ; and Gardelle, though he had professed to sit up for her but the night before, now told him she was gone to Bath or Bristol ; yet, strange as it may seem, no suspicions of murder appear yet to have been conceived.

On Saturday, Mozier, an acquaintance of Gardelle's, who had been also intimate with Mrs. King, and had spent the evening with her the Wednesday before the murder, came by appointment about two or three o'clock, having promised to go with her that evening to the opera. He was let in by Gardelle, who told him that Mrs. King was gone to Bath or Bristol, as he had told Pelsey. This man, and another of Gardelle's acquaintance, observing him to be chagrined and dispirited, seem to have imagined that Mrs. King's absence was the cause of it, and that if they could get him another girl they should cure him : they therefore were kind enough to procure for him on this occasion ; and having picked up a prostitute in the Hay-market, they brought her that very Saturday to Gardelle at Mrs. King's. The worthy, whose name is not known, told her Mrs. King was gone into the country, and had discharged her servant. Gardelle made an apology for the confusion in which the house appeared, and Mozier or Muzard, as he is sometimes called, asked her if she would take care of the house : she readily consented ; and Gardelle acquiescing, they left her with him. He asked her what her business was ; she said she worked plain-work ; he then told her he had some shirts to mend, and that he would satisfy her for her trouble.

All this while the body continued as he had left it on Thursday night, nor had he once been into the room since that time. But this night the woman and Pelsey being in bed, he first conceived a design of concealing or de-

stroying the dead body by parts, and went down to put it in execution ; but the woman, whose name is Sarah Walker, getting out of bed and following him, he returned up stairs, and went to bed with her. In the morning, Sunday, he arose between seven and eight, and left Walker in bed, saying, it was too soon for her to rise ; she fell asleep, and slept till ten ; it is probable that in the mean time he was employed on the body, for when she came down between ten and eleven, he was but beginning to light the parlour-fire. He had spoke to her the night before to get him a chair-woman, and he was in so much confusion that he did not ask her to stay to breakfast ; she went out therefore and hired one Pritchard as a chair-woman, at one shilling a-day, victuals and drink : in the afternoon she brought Pritchard to the house, and found with Gardelle two or three men and two women ; Gardelle went up with her and stayed by her while she made his bed, then the company all went out together. The chair-woman kept house, and about ten o'clock they returned and supped in Gardelle's room. She was then dismissed for the night, and ordered to come the next morning at eight. The next morning, Monday, the chair-woman was ordered to tell Pelsey the footman, that Walker was a relation of Mrs. King's, who was come to be in the house till Mrs. King returned ; but Pelsey knew that she and Gardelle had but one bed, for when he came down on Monday morning, Gardelle's chamber-door stood open, and looking in, he saw some of her clothes. On Monday night he again enquired after Mrs. King, and Gardelle told him she was at Bath or Bristol, he knew not where ; he differed at times in his account of her, yet no suspicion of murder was yet entertained. On Tuesday morning, Pelsey, who was going up to his master's room, smelt an offensive smell, and asked Gardelle, who was shoving up the sash of the window on the staircase, what it was ; Gardelle replied, somebody had put a bone in the fire : the truth, however, was, that while Walker was employed in mending and making some linen in the parlour, he had been burning some of Mrs.

King's bones in the garret. At night, Pelsey renewed his enquiries after Mrs. King, and Gardelle answered with a seeming impatience, "Me know not of Mrs. King ; she give me a great deal of trouble, but me shall hear of her Wednesday or Thursday ;" yet he still talked of sitting up for her, and all this while nobody seems to have suspected a murder.

On Tuesday night he told Mrs. Walker he would sit up till Mrs. King came home, though he had before told her she was out of town, and desired her to go to bed, to which she consented ; as soon as she was in bed, he renewed his horrid employment of cutting the body to pieces, and disposing of it in different places ; the bowels he threw down the necessary, and the flesh of the body and limbs cut to pieces, he scattered about in the cock-loft, where he supposed they would dry and perish without putrefaction : about two o'clock in the morning, however, he was interrupted, for Walker having waked, and not finding him, she went down stairs, and found him standing upon the stairs ; he then, at her solicitation, went up with her to bed.

Wednesday passed like the preceding days, and on Thursday he told his female companion, that he expected Mrs. King home in the evening, and therefore desired that she would provide herself a lodging, giving her, at the same time, two of Mrs. King's shifts, and being thus dismissed, she went away.

Pritchard, the chair-woman, still continued in her office. The water having failed in the cistern on the Tuesday, she had recourse to that in the water-tub in the back kitchen ; upon pulling out the spiggot a little water run out, but as there appeared to be more in, she got upon a ledge, and putting her hand in she felt something soft ; she then fetched a poker, and pressing down the contents of the tub, she got water in a pail. This circumstance she told Pelsey, and they agreed the first opportunity to see what the things in the water-tub were ; yet so languid was their curiosity, and so careless were they of the event, that it was Thursday before this tub was examined ; they found in it the blankets, sheets, and coverlet that Gardelle

had put in it to soak : after spreading, shaking, and looking at them, they put them again into the tub ; and the next morning when Pelsey came down, he saw the curtain hanging on the banisters of the kitchen-stairs ; upon looking down, he saw Gardelle just come out at the wash-house door, where the tub stood. When Pritchard the chair-woman came, he asked her if she had been taking any of the clothes out of the tub, and she said no ; she then went and looked in the tub, and found the sheets had been wrung out. Upon this the first step was taken towards enquiring after the unhappy woman, who had now laid dead more than a week in the house. Pelsey found out the maid whom Gardelle had dismissed, and asked her if she had put any bed-clothes into the water ; she said, no, and seemed frightened ; Pelsey was then also alarmed, and told his master.

These particulars also came to the knowledge of Mr. Barron, an apothecary in the neighbourhood, who went the same day to Mrs. King's house, and enquired of Gardelle where she was. He trembled, and told him, with great confusion, that she was gone to Bath. The next day, therefore, Saturday, he carried the maid before Mr. Fielding, the justice, to make her deposition, and obtained a warrant to take Gardelle into custody. When the warrant was obtained, Mr. Barron, with the constable, and some others, went to the house, where they found Gardelle, and charged him with the murder ; he denied it, but soon after dropped down in a swoon. When he recovered, they demanded the key of Mrs. King's chamber ; but he said she had got it with her in the country ; the constable therefore got in at the window, and opened the door that communicated with the parlour, and they all went in. They found upon the bed a pair of blankets wet, and a pair of sheets that appeared not to have been lain in ; and the curtain also which Pelsey and the chair-woman had seen first in the water-tub, and then on the banisters, was found put up in its place wet. Upon taking off the clothes, the bed appeared bloody, the blankets also were bloody, and marks of blood appeared in

other places ; having taken his keys, they went up into his room, where they found the bloody shift and shirt.

The prisoner, with all these tokens of his guilt, was then carried before Fielding, and though he stiffly denied the fact, was committed. On the Monday, a carpenter and bricklayer were sent to search the house for the body, and Mr. Barron went with them. In the necessary they found what he calls the contents of the bowels of a human body, but what were certainly the bowels themselves ; and in the cock-loft they found one of the breasts, some other muscular parts, and some bones. They perceived also that there had been a fire in the garret, and some fragments of bones, half consumed, were found in the chimney, so large as to be known to be human. On the Thursday before, he had carried an oval chip-box to one Perronneau, a painter in enamel, who had employed him in copying, and pretending it contained colours of great value, desired him to keep it, saying, he was uneasy to leave it at Mrs. King's while she was absent at Bath. Perronneau, when he heard Gardelle was taken up, opened the box, and found in it a gold watch and chain, a pair of bracelets, and a pair of ear-rings, which were known to be Mrs. King's. To this force of evidence Gardelle at length gave way, and confessed the fact, but signed no confession. He was sent to New Prison, where he attempted to destroy himself by swallowing some opium, which he had kept several days by him as a remedy for the tooth-ach. He took at one dose 40 grains, which was so far from answering his purpose, that it did not procure him sleep ; though he declared he had not slept once since the commission of the fact, nor did he sleep for more than a fortnight after this time. When he found the opium did not produce the effect he desired, he swallowed half-pence to the number of twelve ; but neither did these bring on any fatal symptom, whatever pain or disorders they might cause ; which is remarkable, because verdigrese, the solution of copper, is a very powerful and active poison, and the contents of the stomach would act as a dissolvent upon them.

On the 2d of March he was brought to Newgate, and diligently watched, to prevent any further attempts upon his life. He shewed strong marks of penitence and contrition, and behaved with great humility, openness, and courtesy to those who visited him.

On Thursday, the 2d of April, he was tried at the Old Bailey; and in his defence, he insisted only that he had no malice to the deceased, and that her death was the consequence of the fall. He was convicted, and sentenced to be executed on Saturday the 4th. The account which he wrote in prison, and which is mentioned in this narrative, is dated the 28th of March, though he did not communicate it till after his trial. The night after his condemnation his behaviour was extravagant and outrageous; yet the next morning he was composed and quiet, and said he had slept three or four hours in the night. When he was asked why he did not make his escape, he answered, that he feared some innocent person might then suffer in his stead. He declared he had no design to rob Mrs. King, but that he removed some of the things merely to give credit to the story of her journey to Bath; he declared too, that he never had any sentiments of love or jealousy with respect to Mrs. King; though it is evident, his friends, who prescribed for his lowness of spirits, supposed that he had.

He affirmed, that he regarded the woman they brought him with horror, but that he did not dare to refuse her, lest it should produce new suspicions with respect to the cause of his uneasiness. It is, however, certain, that he felt the ill effects of her company in more ways than one to his last hour.

He was executed amidst the shouts and hisses of an indignant populace, in the Haymarket, near Panton-street, to which he was led by Mrs. King's house, where the cart made a stop, and at which he just gave a look. His body was hanged in chains upon Hounslow-heath.

One reflection, upon reading this dreadful narrative, will probably rise in the mind of the attentive reader; the advantages of virtue with respect to our social connections, and the interest that others take in what befalls us.

It does not appear that, during all the time Mrs. King was missing; she was enquired after by one relation or friend; the murder was discovered by strangers, almost without solicitude or enquiry; the murderer was secured by strangers, and by strangers the prosecution against him was carried on.

But who is there of honest reputation, however poor, that could be missing a day, without becoming the subject of many interesting enquiries, without exciting solicitude and fears, that would have no rest till the truth was discovered, and the crime punished?

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### LAURENCE, EARL FERRERS,

*Executed at Tyburn, May 5, 1760, for Murder.*

LORD FERRERS having taken lodgings at Muswell-hill, and having left a mare with one Williams, who kept an inn at some distance, to be taken care of, he sent for her one Sunday, in the afternoon, during divine service. He had given particular orders that no person should have access to the mare but his own groom, for which reason the stable was kept locked, and it happened that the boy who kept the key was at church, so that the mare could not be delivered; upon this Lord Ferrers immediately seized a tuck stick, and taking with him two servants, armed with guns, and a hammer to break open the stable-door, went to Williams's house. When he came there, Williams's wife, hearing a noise in the yard, came out to see what was the matter; upon which his lordship, without hesitating a moment, knocked her down with his fist; when the man appeared in his wife's behalf, he wounded him with his tuck, and after having committed many other unaccountable extravagancies, he broke open the stable-door, and carried away his mare in triumph.

At this house he sometimes lodged and boarded, and his behaviour being such as deterred persons of rank from associating with him, he kept low company, among whom

he indulged himself in many extravagancies, and it was the common opinion of all the neighbours that he was mad ; when he had ordered coffee, he would frequently drink it out of the spout of the coffee-pot ; he used to threaten to break the glasses, to force open Mrs. Williams's bureau, and to throttle her if she opposed him ; these freaks he frequently had when he had drank nothing that had the least intoxicating quality. He is said to have lamented his fits of lunacy to one Philips, at whose house he was about to lodge, about ten years ago, with a view of cautioning the people, and that they might not be affronted at his behaviour.

During all this time, however, he managed his affairs with great acuteness and penetration ; and it would have been less easy to injure him undetected, than most other men. He was even by his attorney, Mr. Goostry, thought to know so well what he was about, that he suffered him to perform several legal acts that were necessary to cut off an entail, which, if he had considered him as a person insane, he neither ought, nor, as it is said, he declared would have suffered him to perform.

When his rents were ordered to be paid to a receiver, the nomination of the receiver was left to himself ; and he appointed Mr. John Johnson, a person who had been taken into the service of Lord Ferrers' family in his youth, and was then his lordship's steward, hoping, probably, that he should have had sufficient influence over him to have procured some deviation from his trust in his favour. But he soon found that Mr. Johnson would not oblige him at the expence of his honesty, and from that time he seems to have conceived an implacable resentment against him ; and it is easy to conceive every opposition to the will of a man so haughty, impetuous, and irascible, would produce such an effect. He, from this time, spoke of him in opprobrious terms, said he had conspired with his enemies to injure him, and that he was a villain ; with these sentiments he gave him warning to quit an advantageous farm, which he held under his lordship, but finding that the trustees under the act of separation had already granted him a lease of it, it having been

promised to him by the earl, or his relations, he was disappointed, and probably, from that time, he meditated a more cruel revenge.

He thought proper, however, to dissemble his malice to the man, as the most probable method to facilitate the gratification of it; so that poor Johnson was deceived into an opinion, that he never was upon better terms with his lord in his life, than at the very time he was contriving to destroy him.

His lordship, at this time, lived at Stanton, a seat about two miles from Ashby de la Zouch, in Leicestershire, and his family consisted of himself, Mrs. C——, a lady who lived with him, and her four daughters, and five servants; an old man and a boy, and three maids. Mr. Johnson lived at the house belonging to the farm, which he held under his lordship, called the Lount, about half a mile distant from Stanton.

On Sunday, the 13th of January, my lord went to the Lount, and after some discourse with Mr. Johnson, ordered him to come to him at Stanton, on the Friday following, the 18th, at three o'clock in the afternoon. My lord's hour of dinner was two, and soon after dinner, Mrs. C—— being in the still-house, his lordship came to her, and told her, that she and the children might take a walk: Mrs. C——, who seems to have considered this an order to go out, prepared herself and the young ladies immediately, and asked, whether they might go to her father's, which was not far off, to which he assented, and said they might stay till half an hour after five. The two men-servants he also contrived to send out of the way, so that there was no person in the house but himself and the three maids.

In a very short time after the house was thus cleared, Mr. Johnson came, and was let in by Elizabeth Burge-land, one of the maids. He asked if his lordship was within: and the girl replied, yes, he was in his room: Mr. Johnson immediately went, and knocked at the door, and my lord came to the door, and ordered him to wait in the still-house.

After he had been there about ten minutes, his lordship

came out again, and calling him to his own room, went in with him, and immediately locked the door.

When they were thus locked in together, my lord first ordered him to settle an account, and, after a little time, produced a paper to him, purporting, as he said, to be a confession of his villany, and required him to sign it; Johnson refused, and expostulated, and his lordship then drawing a pistol, which he had charged and kept in his pocket for the purpose, presented it, and bid him kneel down; the poor man then kneeled down upon one knee, but Lord Ferrers cried out so loud as to be heard by one of the maids at the kitchen door, "Down, on your other knee; declare what you have acted against Lord Ferrers, your time is come, you must die;" and then immediately fired: the ball entered his body just below the last rib, yet he did not drop, but rose up, and expressed the sensations of a dying man, both by his looks and by such broken sentences as are usually uttered in such situations. My lord, though he at first intended to shoot him again, upon finding he did not drop, was yet forced out of that resolution by involuntary remorse, upon the complaints of the poor man, and the dreadful change that he perceived in his countenance. He then came out of the room, having been shut up in it with the unhappy victim about half an hour; and the report of the pistol having frightened the women into the wash-house, he called out, "Who is there?" One of them soon heard, and answered him: He ordered her to see for one of the men, and another to assist in getting Mr. Johnson to bed.

At this time his lordship was perfectly sober, and having dispatched a messenger for Mr. Kirkland, a surgeon, who lived at Ashby de la Zouch, he went back to the room where he had left Mr. Johnson with the maid, and asked him how he found himself; Johnson replied, that he found himself like a dying man, and requested his lordship to send for his children; his lordship consented, and a messenger was dispatched to the Lount, to tell Miss Johnson that she must come to the hall directly, for that her father was taken very ill; upon coming to the hall

she soon learnt what had happened, and Lord Ferrers sent one of the maids with her up to the room into which her father had been removed, and immediately followed himself ; Mr. Johnson was in bed, but did not speak to her : Lord Ferrers pulled down the clothes, and applied a pledget dipt in arquebusade water to the wound, and soon after left him ; from the time the fact was committed Lord Ferrers continued to drink porter till he became drunk ; in the mean time the messenger that had been sent for the surgeon, having at length found him, at a neighbouring village, about five o'clock told him that his assistance was wanted for Mr. Johnson at Stanton ; he came immediately with the messenger, but, in his way to Stanton called at the Lount, where he first heard that Mr. Johnson had been shot, the rumour of the event having by that time reached all the neighbouring parts.

When he came to the hall, my lord told him that he had shot Johnson, but believed that he was more frightened than hurt ; that he had intended to shoot him dead, for that he was a villain, and deserved to die ; but, says he, now I have spared his life, I desire you would do what you can for him. My lord at the same time desired that he would not suffer him to be seized, and declared if any one should attempt it he would shoot them.

Mr. Kirkland, who wisely determined to say whatever might keep Lord Ferrers, who was then in liquor, from any further outrages, told him that he should not be seized.

The patient complained of a violent pain in his bowels, and Mr. Kirkland preparing to search the wound, my lord informed him of the direction of it, by shewing him how he held the pistol when he fired it. Mr. Kirkland found the ball had lodged in the body, at which his lordship expressed great surprise, declaring, that he had tried that pistol a few days before, and that it then carried a ball through a deal board near an inch and an half thick.

Mr. Kirkland then went down stairs to prepare some dressings, and my lord soon after left the room. From this time, in proportion as the liquor, which he continued to drink, took effect, his passions became more tumult-

tuous, and the transient fit of compassion, mixed with fear for himself, gave way to starts of rage, and the predominance of malice: he went up into the room where Johnson was dying, and pulled him by the wig, calling him villain, and threatening to shoot him through the head. The last time he went to him, he was with great difficulty prevented from tearing the clothes off the bed, which he attempted with great fury, that he might strike him.

A proposal was made to my lord by Mrs. C——, that Mr. Johnson should be removed to his own house, but he replied, "He shall not be removed, I will keep him here to plague the villain." Many of these expressions were uttered in the hearing of Miss Johnson, whose sufferings in such a situation it is easier to conceive than express; yet, after his abuse of her father, he told her that if he died he would take care of her and of the family, provided they did not prosecute.

When his lordship went to bed, which was between eleven and twelve, he told Mr. Kirkland that he knew he could, if he would, set the affair in such a light as to prevent his being seized, desiring that he might see him before he went away in the morning, and declaring that he would rise at any hour.

Mr. Kirkland, in prosecution of his plan, told him, that he might go to bed in safety; and to bed he went.

Mr. Kirkland, for his own sake, was very solicitous to get Mr. Johnson removed, because if he died where he was, contrary to the assurances he had given his lordship, he had reason to think his own life would be in danger. As soon as my lord was in bed, therefore, he went and told Mr. Johnson that he would take care he should be removed with all expedition.

He accordingly went to the Lount, and having fitted up an easy chair, with two poles, by way of a sedan, and procured a guard, he returned about two o'clock, and carried Mr. Johnson to his house, without much fatigue, where he languished till about nine the next morning, and then expired.

As soon as he was dead, the neighbours set about seizing

the murderer ; a few persons armed, set out for Stanton, and as they entered the hall-yard, they saw him going towards the stable, as they imagined, to take horse ; he appeared to be just out of bed, his stockings being down, and his garters in his hand, having probably taken the alarm immediately, on coming out of his room, and finding that Johnson had been removed.

One Springthorpe advancing towards his lordship, presented a pistol, and required him to surrender ; but my lord putting his hand to his pocket, Springthorpe imagined he was feeling for a pistol, and stopped short, being probably intimidated, and suffered his lordship to escape back into the house, where he fastened the doors, and stood upon his defence.

The number of people who had come to apprehend him, beset the house, and their number increased very fast. In about two hours my lord appeared at the garret window, and called out, " How is Johnson ? " Springthorpe answered, " He is dead ; " upon which my lord insulted him, called him liar, and swore he would not believe any body but Kirkland ; upon being again assured he was dead, he desired the people might be dispersed, and said he would surrender ; yet almost in the same breath, he desired the people might be let in, and have some victuals and drink ; but the issue was, he went away from the window swearing he would not be taken.

The people, however, still continued near the house, and about two hours after his lordship had appeared at the garret-window, he was seen by one Curtis, a collier, upon the bowling-green ; my lord was then armed with a blunderbuss, two or three pistols, and a dagger ; but Curtis, so far from being intimidated by supposing he had a pistol in his pocket, marched up boldly to him, in spite of his blunderbuss, and my lord was so struck with the determined resolution that appeared in this brave fellow, that he suffered him to seize him, without making the least resistance ; yet the moment he was in custody declared, he had killed a villain, and that he gloried in the fact.

He was carried from Stanton, to a public-house, kept

by one Kinsey, at Ashby de la Zouch, where he was kept till the Monday following, during which time the coroner had sat upon the body, and the jury had brought in their verdict "Wilful murder."

From Ashby de la Zouch he was sent to Leicester gaol; from thence, about a fortnight afterwards, he was brought in his own landau and six under a strong guard to London, where he arrived on the fourteenth of February, about noon, dressed like a jockey, in a close riding frock, jockey boots and cap, and a plain shirt.

Being carried before the House of Lords, he was committed to the custody of the black-rod, and ordered to the Tower, where he arrived about six o'clock in the evening, having behaved, during the whole journey, and at his commitment, with great calmness and propriety. He was confined in the round tower, near the draw-bridge; two warders were constantly in the room with him, and one at the door; two centinels were posted at the bottom of the stairs, and one upon the draw-bridge, with their bayonets fixed; and from this time the gates were ordered to be shut an hour sooner than usual.

Mrs. C—— and the four young ladies, who had come up with him from Leicestershire, took a lodging in Tower-street, and for some time a servant was continually passing with letters between them; but afterwards, this correspondence was permitted only once a-day.

During his confinement, he was moderate both in eating and drinking; his breakfast was a half-pint bason of tea, with a small spoonful of brandy in it, and a muffin; with his dinner he generally drank a pint of wine, and a pint of water, and another pint of each with his supper. In general his behaviour was decent and quiet, except that he would sometimes start, suddenly tear open his waistcoat, and use other gestures, which shewed that his mind was disturbed.

Mrs. C—— came three times to the Tower to see him, but was not admitted: but his children were suffered to be with him some time.

On the sixteenth of April, having been a prisoner in the Tower two months and two days, he was brought to his

trial, which continued till the eighteenth, before the House of Lords, assembled for that purpose; Lord Henley, keeper of the great seal, having been created lord high steward upon the occasion.

The fact was easily proved, and his lordship, in his defence, examined several witnesses to prove his insanity, none of whom proved such an insanity as made him not accountable for his conduct. His lordship managed this defence himself, in such a manner as shewed perfect recollection of mind, and an uncommon understanding; he mentioned the situation of being reduced to the necessity of attempting to prove himself a lunatic, that he might not be deemed a murderer, with the most delicate and affecting sensibility; and when he found that his plea could not avail him, he confessed that he made it only to gratify his friends; that he was always averse to it himself; and that it had prevented what he had proposed, and what perhaps might have taken off the malignity, at least of the accusation.

His lordship immediately upon conviction received sentence to be hanged on Monday, the 21st of April, and then to be anatomized; but in consideration of his rank, the execution of this sentence was respited till Monday, the 5th of May.

During this interval he made a will, by which he left 1300*l.* to Mr. Johnson's children; 1000*l.* to each of his four natural daughters; and 60*l.* a-year to Mrs. C—— for her life. This will, however, being made after his conviction, was not valid; yet it is said, that the same, or nearly the same, provision, has been made for the parties.

In the mean time a scaffold was erected under the gallows, at Tyburn, and part of it, about a yard square, was raised about eighteen inches above the rest of the floor, with a contrivance to sink down upon a signal given, and the whole was covered with black baize.

In the morning of the 5th of May, about nine o'clock his body was demanded of the keeper, at the gates of the Tower, by the sheriffs of London and Middlesex. His lordship being informed of it, sent a message to the sheriffs,

requesting that he might go in his own landau, instead of the mourning coach which had been provided by his friends ; and this request being granted, he entered his landau, drawn by six horses, with Mr. Humphries, chaplain of the Tower, who had been admitted to his lordship that morning for the first time ; the landau was conducted to the outer gate of the Tower, by the officers of the Tower, and was there delivered to the sheriffs.

Hère Mr. Sheriff Vaillant entered the landau to his lordship, and expressing his concern at having so melancholy a duty to perform, his lordship said, " He was much obliged to him, and took it kindly that he accompanied him."

He was dressed in a suit of light-coloured clothes, embroidered with silver, said to be his wedding-suit ; and soon after Mr. Vaillant came into the landau, he said, " You may, perhaps, Sir, think it strange to see me in this dress, but I have my particular reasons for it."

The procession then began in the following order :

A very large body of constables for the county of Middlesex, preceded by one of the high constables.

A party of horse-grenadiers, and a party of foot.

Mr. Sheriff Errington in his chariot, accompanied by his under-sheriff, Mr. Jackson.

The landau, escorted by two other parties of horse-grenadiers and foot.

Mr. Sheriff Vaillant's chariot, in which was his under-sheriff, Mr. Nicols.

A mourning coach and six, with some of his lordship's friends.

A hearse and six, which was provided for the conveyance of his lordship's corpse, from the place of execution to Surgeons'-hall.

The procession moved so slow, that my lord was two hours and three quarters in his landau ; but during the whole time he appeared perfectly easy and composed, though he often expressed his desire to have it over, saying, that " the apparatus of death, and the passing through such crowds of people, were ten times worse than death itself."

He told the sheriff that he had written to the king, to beg "that he might suffer where his ancestor, the earl of Essex, had suffered, and was in greater hopes of obtaining that favour, as he had the honour of quartering part of the same arms, and of being allied to his majesty; and that he thought it was hard that he must die at the place appointed for the execution of common felons."

Mr. Humphries took occasion to observe, that "the world would naturally be very inquisitive concerning the religion his lordship professed, and asked him if he chose to say any thing upon that subject." To which his lordship answered, "that he did not think himself accountable to the world for his sentiments on religion; but that he had always believed in, and adored one God, the maker of all things;—that whatever his notions were, he had never propagated them, or endeavoured to gain any persons over to his persuasion;—that all countries and nations had a form of religion by which the people were governed, and that he looked upon whoever disturbed them in it as an enemy to society.—That he very much blamed my lord Bolingbroke for permitting his sentiments on religion to be published to the world.—That the many facts and disputes which happen about religion, have almost turned morality out of doors.—That he never could believe what some sectaries teach, that faith alone will save mankind; so that if a man, just before he dies, should say only, 'I believe,' that *that* alone will save him."

As to the crime for which he suffered, he declared, "that he was under particular circumstances, that he had met with so many crosses and vexations, he scarce knew what he did:" and most solemnly protested, "that he had not the least malice against Mr. Johnson."

When his lordship had got to that part of Holborn which is near Drury-lane, he said, "he was thirsty, and should be glad of a glass of wine and water;" but upon the sheriffs remonstrating to him, "that a stop for that purpose would necessarily draw a greater crowd about him, which might possibly disturb and incommode him, yet, if his lordship still desired it, it should be done;"

he most readily answered, "That's true, I say no more, let us by no means stop."

When they approached near the place of execution, his lordship told the sheriff, "that there was a person waiting in a coach near there, for whom he had a very sincere regard, and of whom he should be glad to take his leave before he died;" to which the sheriff answered, that, "if his lordship insisted upon it, it should be so; but that he wished his lordship, for his own sake, would decline it, lest the sight of a person, for whom he had such a regard, should unman him, and disarm him of the fortitude he possessed." To which his lordship, without the least hesitation, replied, "Sir, if you think I am wrong, I submit:" and upon the sheriff telling his lordship, that if he had any thing to deliver to that person, or any one else, he would faithfully do it; his lordship delivered to him a pocket-book, in which was a bank-note and a ring, and a purse with some guineas, in order to be delivered to that person, which were delivered accordingly.

The landau being now advanced to the place of execution, his lordship alighted from it, and ascended upon the scaffold, with the same composure and fortitude of mind he had possessed from the time he left the Tower. Soon after he had mounted the scaffold, Mr. Humphries asked his lordship, if he chose to say prayers? which he declined; but upon his asking him, "if he did not choose to join with him in the Lord's Prayer?" he readily answered, "he would, for he always thought it a very fine prayer;" upon which they knelt down together, upon two cushions, covered with black baize, and his lordship, with an audible voice, very devoutly repeated the Lord's prayer, and afterwards, with great energy, the following ejaculation: "O God, forgive me all my errors—pardon all my sins!"

His lordship then rising, took his leave of the sheriff and the chaplain; and after thanking them for their many civilities, he presented his watch to Mr. Sheriff Vaillant, which he desired his acceptance of; and requested that his body might be buried at Breden or Stanton, in Leicestershire.

His lordship then called for the executioner, who immediately came to him, and asked him forgiveness ; upon which his lordship said, “ I freely forgive you, as I do all mankind, and hope myself to be forgiven.” He then intended to give the executioner five guineas, but by mistake, giving it into the hands of the executioner’s assistant, an unseasonable dispute ensued between those unthinking and unfeeling wretches, which Mr. Sheriff Vaillant instantly silenced.

The executioner then proceeded to do his duty, to which his lordship, with great resignation, submitted. His neckcloth being taken off, a white cap, which he had brought in his pocket, being put upon his head, his arms secured by a black sash, and the cord put round his neck, he advanced by three steps to the elevated part of the scaffold, and standing under the cross-beam which went over it, which was also covered with black baize, he asked the executioner, “ Am I right ?” Then the cap was drawn over his face, and, upon a signal given by the sheriff, (for his lordship, upon being before asked, declined to give one himself) that part upon which he stood instantly sunk down from beneath his feet, and left him entirely suspended.

For a few seconds his lordship made some struggles against the attacks of death, but was soon eased of all pain by the pressure of the executioner.

From the time of his lordship’s ascending upon the scaffold, until his execution, was about eight minutes ; during which his countenance did not change, nor his tongue falter.

The accustomed time of one hour being past, the coffin was raised up, with the greatest decency, to receive the body, and being deposited in the hearse, was conveyed by the sheriffs, with the same procession, to Surgeon’s-hall, to undergo the remainder of the sentence.

A large incision was made from the neck to the bottom of the breast, and another across the throat ; the lower part of the belly was laid open, and the bowels taken away. It was afterwards publicly exposed to view, in a room up one pair of stairs at the hall ; and on the evening

of Thursday, the 8th of May, it was delivered to his friends for interment.

The following verse is said to have been found in his apartment:—

“ In doubt I liv’d, in doubt I die,  
 “ Yet stand prepar’d the vast abyss to try,  
 “ And undismay’d expect eternity.”

### FRANCIS DAVID STIRN,

*Convicted of Murder, but poisoned himself in Newgate, September 12, 1760.*

SCARCELY had the execution of Earl Ferrers taken place, when the attention of the public was called to the remarkable case and unhappy fate of Francis David Stirn, by birth a German ; a man of learning, and unfortunately possessed of as violent passions as that unfortunate lord.

Francis David Stirn was born in the principality of Hesse Cassel, about the year 1735. His father was a minister, and his brother is now a metropolitan minister at Hersfeldt, having the superintendence over the Calvinist clergy of a certain district.

At a proper age he was sent to a public grammar-school in Hesse Cassel, where he made a considerable progress, and was then removed to a college at Bremen, which is endowed with professorships, as a university. While he was here, he preached some probationary discourses, according to the custom of the place, and though he was scarce twenty years of age, became tutor to the son of one Haller, a doctor of laws, and burgomaster of the city. But he soon forfeited the favour both of Mr. Haller and his wife, by a suspicious and supercilious disposition, which broke out into so many acts of indecorum, that he was dismissed from his employment.

He was then taken home by his brother, who soon after placed him at the university of Hintelin, belonging to Hesse, where he pursued his studies from the year 1756

till the middle of the year 1758. During this time he improved his knowledge in the Latin and Greek classics to an uncommon degree; he also acquired a very considerable skill in the Hebrew, and became a great proficient both in vocal and instrumental music, dancing, fencing, and other polite accomplishments.

About this time, the French having made an irruption into Hesse, and impoverished the inhabitants by raising exorbitant contributions, his brother was no longer able to support him, and therefore sent him to England with very strong recommendations to a friend, who is in a station of great honour and interest.

This person received him kindly, and promised to procure him an appointment that should be agreeable to his friends; but as no opportunity immediately presented, he offered himself as an assistant to Mr. Crawford, who kept a school in Cross-street, Hatton-garden, and was received, upon the recommendation of the Reverend Mr. Planta, who had himself lived with Mr. Crawford in that station, and left him upon his having obtained a place in the Museum. It was also proposed that he should assist the German minister at the chapel in the Savoy, where he preached several probationary discourses; but as he made use of notes, he was not approved by his auditory. Stirn, however, with the suspicion natural to his temper, imputed his disappointment to some unfriendly offices of Mr. Planta, and some unaccountable combination between him and the people.

He then turned his thoughts towards a military life, in which some offer of advantage seems to have been made him; but his friends here were so well apprized of his infirmity, that knowing it would be impossible for him to submit to the subordination established in an army, they earnestly dissuaded him from it, that he might not incur the censure of a court-martial, or bring himself into other inextricable difficulties.

He then formed a design of entering into one of our universities; and having communicated it to his friends, he obtained the interest of several clergymen of considerable influence: but some new sally of his jealous and

ungovernable temper, disgusted his friends and disappointed his expectations. But instead of imputing his disappointment to himself, he threw out many threats against those whom he had already offended by his petulance and ill behaviour.

In the mean time, he continued in Mr. Crawford's family, where he gave frequent and mortifying instances of his pride and indiscretion ; one of which is too remarkable to be omitted.

He set out one day with Mr. Crawford, and a Prussian gentleman to dine with Mr. V——, a Dutch merchant at Mousewell-hill ; in his way thither he quitted his company, and, by crossing the fields, got to the house before them. When he came there he took such offence at something Mr. V—— said, in some trifling dispute which happened between them, that he called him fool, and proceeded from one outrage to another, till Mr. V—— ordered his servants to turn him out of doors, which was done before his companions, Crawford and the Prussian, got there. Yet Stirn, when they came back in the evening, fell into another fit of rage against them, and charged them with having got to Mr. V——'s before him, and concealed themselves in another room, to enjoy the injurious treatment which Mr. V—— was prepared to offer him ; insisting that he had heard them rejoicing and laughing at his disgrace.

While he lived with Mr. Crawford, he became acquainted with Mr. Matthews, a surgeon in the neighbourhood, who advertised the cure of fistulas, and other disorders of the like kind. Matthews is said to have insinuated to Stirn, that, though Crawford professed great friendship to him, yet his intention was only to keep him in a state of poverty and dependence, and to render his abilities subservient to his own advantage, without giving him a valuable consideration ; telling him, that it was in his power to provide much better for himself. From this time, Stirn's behaviour to Mr. Crawford was very different from what it had been before, and Mr. Crawford was proportionably less satisfied ; so that, though he still continued with him, yet Crawford says, that he now kept

him merely from the regard he had to him and his family.

Soon after this, Matthews made him a proposal to come and live with him, offering him an apartment ready furnished, and his board, upon condition that he should teach Mrs. Matthews and her daughter music, and Matthews himself the classics. This proposal Stirn inclined to accept; but Mr. Crawford hearing of it, endeavoured to persuade Matthews to retract it, telling him, that Stirn had failings which would render him a very troublesome inmate. Matthews, who seems to have had neither a good opinion of Crawford, nor good-will to him, immediately told Stirn that he had been attempting to persuade him to go back from his proposals, and mentioned also the reasons he gave for so doing. This threw Stirn into a rage, and he expressed his resentment to Crawford in strong terms, and a boisterous behaviour.

Stirn soon after accepted Matthews's proposal, and Matthews offered to secure him a continuance of what he had offered for twelve months, by writing; but Stirn refused the obligation, saying, that his honour was sufficient.

Crawford, having failed in persuading Matthews not to receive Stirn, now endeavoured to prevail upon Stirn not to go to Matthews; and therefore, though he says he would not have kept him so long, but in regard to Stirn himself and his friends, he now offered to raise his salary, that he might keep him longer, at greater expence.

But this offer was refused, and Stirn took possession of his apartment at Matthews's house: a very little time, however, was sufficient to shew that they could not long continue together. Stirn's pride, and his situation in life concurred to render him so jealous of indignity, and so ingenious in discovering oblique reproach and insult in the behaviour of those about him, that, finding one evening, after he came home, some pieces of bread in the dining-room, which had been left there by a child of the family, he immediately took it into his head, that they were left there as reproachful emblems of his poverty, which obliged him to subsist on the fragments of charity.

This thought set him on fire in a moment ; he ran furiously up stairs ; and knocking loudly and suddenly at Mr. Matthews's chamber-door, called out, Mr. Matthews ! He was answered by Mrs. Matthews, who was in bed, that Mr. Matthews was not there ; but he still clamorously insisted on the door's being opened, so that Mrs. Matthews was obliged to rise, and having put on her clothes, came out, and asked him what he wanted, and what he meant by such behaviour ; he answered, that he wanted Mr. Matthews, and that he knew he was in the room. It happened that at this instant Mr. Matthews knocked at the street door, and put an end to the dispute with his wife. The moment Mr. Matthews entered the house, Stirn in a furious manner charged him with an intention to affront him by the crusts ; Mr. Matthews assured him that he meant no such thing, and that the bread was carried thither by the child : Mrs. Matthews also confirmed it, and Stirn was at length pacified. He seems to have been conscious of the strange impropriety of his conduct, as soon as he had time for reflection ; for the next morning he went to Mr. Crawford, and expressed a most grateful sense of Mr. and Mrs. Matthews's patience and kindness in suffering, and passing over, his fantastic behaviour.

It is however probable, that, from this time, they began to live together upon very ill terms ; Matthews soon after gave him warning to quit his house, and Stirn refused to go. What particular offences had been given on each side does not appear ; but they had been carried to such lengths, that Crawford consulted Mr. Welch, (a Middlesex justice) about them, on Stirn's behalf. What directions he received are not known ; but, on Wednesday the 13th of August, Stirn having been then in Mr. Matthews's family about two months, Matthews went to a friend upon Dowgate-hill, whose name is Lowther, and telling him that Stirn had behaved so ill he could no longer keep him in his house, and that he had refused to quit it, requested his advice and assistance to get rid of him. Mr. Lowther then went with Mr. Matthews to Mr. Welch, who, finding there was no legal contract be-

tween them, told Matthews he might turn Stirn out when he pleased, without notice. Matthews then determining to turn him out that night, Mr. Welch desired he would be cautious, and advised him to get a couple of friends to be with him; and, when Stirn came in, first to desire him to go away peaceably, and, if he refused, to lead him out by the arm. Matthews then said, he was a desperate man, and, if he should offer any rudeness to him, would make no scruple of stabbing him. He was then advised to take a peace-officer with him. And having now received sufficient instructions, he went away with his friend, determined to put them in execution.

While Matthews and his friend were at Mr. Welch's, Stirn was making his complaint to Mr. Crawford, whom he met at Bartlet's-buildings coffee-house, near Holborn. He told him, with great emotion, that Mr. Matthews had villainously and unjustly charged him with having alienated the affection of his wife, and, by her means, having had access to his purse.

Mr. Crawford, who appears to have known that Matthews had warned Stirn to be gone, and that Stirn had refused to go, advised him, as the best way of removing Matthews's suspicions, immediately to quit his house.—Upon this he started up in a violent rage, and told him, if he spoke another word, he would——and muttered something else to himself, which Mr. Crawford could not hear.—But the next moment he told him, that he and Mr. Chapman (a surgeon in the neighbourhood) had conspired with Mr. Matthews to ruin his character, and oblige him to quit England with infamy. After some farther altercation, he sat down, and appeared somewhat more composed; but on a sudden, started up again, with new fury in his looks, and said, his honour was wounded, his character ruined, and his bread lost; that under such circumstances, he could not live; and that, if Matthews scandalously turned him out of his house, which he seems to have threatened, he would be revenged. Mr. Crawford attempted some farther expostulation, but finding it in vain, and it being now near eleven o'clock, he accom-

panied him to Mr. Matthews's door, and there left him. But though he was in a temper that made expostulation hopeless, yet, he says, he left him, as he thought, in a disposition to do as he advised him.

Matthews, in the mean time, had got two friends, of which Mr. Lowther was one, and a constable; and having removed all that belonged to Mr. Stirn out of his room, into the passage, they were waiting for his coming in; Matthews having determined to turn him into the street at that time of the night, and leave him to get a lodging where he could.

When Stirn knocked at the door, it was opened to him by Lowther; and upon entering the passage, and seeing his clothes and other things lying in it, he cried out, with great passion, "Who has done this?" Matthews replied, "I have done it—You told me, you would not leave my house but by force, and now I am determined you shall go." Stirn then reproached Matthews with being a bad man, and told him that he was a coward, and would not have dared thus to insult him if he had not procured persons to abet him and assist him. Some farther words passed on both sides; after which, Matthews desired Stirn to take a glass of wine, there being then wine and glasses upon the table; and said, "let us part friendly." Stirn then said, he would not go till he had played his last tune; and there being a spinnet in the room, he went and struck it five or six times: then he said, "I want but half a guinea: you may do what you will with my clothes and books." Matthews replied, "If you will tell me what you want with half a guinea, and have not so much, I will lend you the money." Stirn then put his hand in his pocket, and taking out some money, looked at it, and said, "No, I have as much money as I want; I have spoke to a man to-day who will write my life and yours." "Have a care," said Matthews, "what you say; you have before said enough for me to lay you by the heels."—"Why, what have I said before?" said Stirn. "Why, you have said," replied Matthews, "that Crawford might thank his God he had got rid of you in the manner he had; but

that you would have your revenge of me." Stirn then desired Matthews to give him his hand, and Matthews stretching it out, Stirn grasped it in both his, and said, "I have said so, and here is my hand, I will have revenge of you." After this, a good deal of opprobrious language passed between them, and then Stirn went out of the house with the constable, though not in his custody.

Where this forlorn and infatuated creature passed the night, does not appear; nor is any thing related of the transactions of the next day, Thursday the 14th, except that Mr. Chapman endeavoured to procure a meeting of the parties with himself and Mr. Crawford that evening, to bring about a reconciliation, but without success, Mr. Matthews being unfortunately from home, when he called to make the appointment. It appears, however, from divers circumstances which happened afterwards, that, on that day, Stirn bought a pair of pistols, and that having loaded them, he sent Mr. Matthews a challenge which Matthews refused to accept; and it is probable, that from this time he resolved upon the murder, no other means of revenge being left him. On Friday morning, the fifteenth, Mr. Crawford, hearing that Stirn was in great anxiety and distress of mind, gave him an invitation to dinner. This invitation he accepted, and he behaved with great propriety and politeness till after the cloth was taken away; but just then he started up, as if stung by some sudden thought, and uttered several invectives against Matthews; saying, that none but an execrable villain could impute to him the horrid character of a thief and adulterer. He said this, without any mention having been made of his own situation, or of Mr. Matthews's name, and soon after went away.

About half an hour after five, the same evening, as Mr. Crawford was going down Cross-street, Stirn overtook him. Crawford at this time discovered such an expression of despair in his countenance, that he suspected he had formed a design to destroy himself especially as it was said he had made an attempt of that kind six months before.

Stirn turned the conversation principally upon the point

of honour, and the proper means of maintaining it. Crawford, who saw him greatly moved, so as frequently to start, and change colour, turned the discourse to religion; but observing he gained no attention, he hoped to soothe his mind by mentioning the prospect he still had of doing well; but Stirn then hastily interrupted him: "Who," says he, "will entertain a person under the horrid character of an adulterer and a thief! No, Sir, I am lost both to God and to the world."

Mr. Crawford then told him, that if he should fail of success here, he would assist him with money to return to his brother. "To my brother!" says Stirn, in an agony, "neither my brother nor my country can receive me under the disgrace of such crimes as are imputed to me." As he pronounced these words, he burst into tears; and Mr. Crawford, not being able longer to support the effect of such a conversation upon his mind, was obliged to take his leave.

Mr. Crawford, in order to recollect himself, went out into the fields, where he could not help musing on what had passed; and finding his suspicions, that Stirn intended to destroy himself, grow stronger and stronger, he determined to return, and endeavour to find him out a second time.

It happened that about half an hour after eight o'clock he met with him at Owen's coffee-house, where the conversation upon his quarrel with Matthews was renewed, though with much more temper than before; yet Stirn often started, saying, he expected that every one who opened the door was Matthews.

While he was at Owen's coffee-house, he called for a pint of porter and some potatoes, which he devoured ravenously, though he had supped before, and drank a pint of porter, and three gills of wine.

About ten o'clock he got up, and said, he would go to Mr. Pugh's; Pugh kept an alehouse, the sign of the Pewter-platter, in Cross-street, Hatton Garden, next door to Crawford's school, where Crawford, Matthews, Chapman, and other persons in the neighbourhood, frequently met to spend the evening.

Mr. Crawford endeavoured to persuade him to go home to his lodgings, upon which Stirn, without making any reply, caught him by the hand, and pressed with such violence as almost to force the blood out of his finger ends.

They went together to Mr. Pugh's door, where Mr. Crawford left him, and went home. Stirn went into the neighbour's room, at the Pewter-platter, where he found Matthews, who had been to see Foote's farce called the Minor, in the Haymarket, and with him, Mr. Chapman and Mr. Lowther; several other persons were in the room, but not of the same company.

Stirn sat down at the same table with Matthews and his friends; but Chapman perceiving by his gestures and countenance, that he was in great agitation, called him out, and admonished him not to do any thing that might have disagreeable consequences either to himself or others. After this Stirn returned alone into the room, and Chapman went home. Stirn walked about the room by himself, and in the mean time Mr. Crawford came in, having heard who were in company, and fearing some fatal effect of Stirn's passion, which he hoped he might contribute to prevent.

Stirn, after some time, applying himself to Mr. Matthews, said, "Sir, you have accused me of theft and adultery." Matthews denied the charge; but said, "If his wife's virtue had not been more to be depended upon than *his* honour, he did not know what might have been the consequence."

After some mutual reproaches, Matthews called him a dirty fellow, and said he ought to be sent into his own lousy country: Stirn, after this, took two or three turns about the room, without reply, and then took a small piece of paper out of his pocket, and held it some time in his hand, with a design that Matthews should take notice of it; but Matthews not regarding it, he held it in the candle till it was burnt; he then walked about the room for a few minutes more, and Crawford observing uncommon fury and desperation in his looks, desired the company to drink his health; Mr. Lowther immediately did

so, and, as he thinks, so did Mr. Matthews too ; after which Stirn still walked about the room, but in a few minutes came and stood at Mr. Crawford's elbow ; Mr. Lowther sat next to Mr. Crawford, and Mr. Matthews next to Mr. Lowther. He then went and stood between Mr. Lowther and Mr. Crawford, and having continued there about a minute, or a minute and a half, he drew out the two pistols he had procured for the duel, wrapped up in a piece of paper, and stretching his arm across the table before Mr. Lowther, he discharged one of them at Matthews's breast, who gave a sudden start, and then falling forward, died instantly, without a groan. Stirn, almost at the same moment discharged the other at himself ; but, by some accident, the ball missed him. As soon as the smoke was dissipated, and the company recovered from their first astonishment and confusion, Stirn was seen standing as it were torpid with amazement and horror. As soon as he saw the attention of all that were in the room turned upon him, he seemed to recollect himself, and made towards the door ; but a person in the room, whose name was Warford, seized him, and after some struggle pulled him to the ground. Lowther immediately went up to him, and Stirn cried out, " Shoot me, shoot me, shoot me, for I shall be hanged." Somebody then saying, Matthews is dead, Stirn replied, " I am not sorry ; but I am sorry that I did not shoot myself."

After his commitment he obstinately refused all kinds of food, with a view to starve himself, that he might avoid the infamy of a public death by the hands of the executioner : he persisted in this abstinence till the Friday following, the 22d of August, being just a week, drinking only a dish or two of coffee, and a little wine ; this conduct he endeavoured to justify, by saying, that his life was forfeited both by the law of God and man, and that it was not lawful even for the government to pardon him ; and what does it signify, says he, by whose hands this forfeit is paid ? The ordinary indeed told him, in answer to this argument, that his life was not in his own power, and that as he did not, and could not, give it to himself, so

neither had he a right to take it away ; it is indeed pity that upon this occasion the ordinary was master of no better argument ; for the argument which he used against Stirn's right to take away his own life, would prove, that his life could not be lawfully taken away by any other ; for if Stirn had not a right to take away his own life, because he did not, and could not, give it to himself, the hangman, as he could no more give life than Stirn, had no more right to take it away. He was, however, urged to eat, by arguments addressed to his passions ; for he was told, that he would incur more infamy by suicide than by hanging, as his body would be dragged like that of a brute to a hole dug to receive it in a cross-road, and a stake would be afterwards driven through it, which would remain as a monument of his disgrace. These arguments, however, were without effect, for he never eat any solid food, till he had, by the assistance of some who visited him, procured a quantity of opium sufficient to answer his purpose by a nearer way.

On Wednesday the 10th of September having then in some degree recovered his strength, he was brought to the bar and arraigned ; he was then decently dressed in a suit of black cloth, but, contrary to the general expectation, he pleaded *not guilty*, and requested that his trial might be put off till Friday the 12th, which was granted.

On the 12th he was brought to the bar again, but, instead of his suit of black, he appeared in a green nightgown ; he had been advised to feign himself mad, but this advice he rejected with disdain.

During his trial, which lasted about four hours, he was often ready to faint : he was therefore indulged with a seat, and several refreshments ; when sentence was passed upon him he quite fainted away, but being recovered by the application of spirits, he requested the court that he might be permitted to go to the place of execution in the coach with the clergyman ; upon which the court told him, that was at the sheriff's option, but that such a favour, if granted, would be contrary to the intention of the law, which had been lately made to distinguish murders by exemplary punishment : upon this he

made a profound reverence to the court, and was taken back to prison.

About six o'clock, the same evening, he was visited by the ordinary, who found in the press-yard a German; this man said he was a minister, whom Stirn had desired might attend him. The ordinary therefore took him up with him to Stirn's chamber, he having been removed from the cells by the assistance of some friends. They found him lying on his bed, and as he expressed great uneasiness at the presence of the ordinary and a prisoner that had been set over him as a guard, they withdrew and left him alone with his countryman; soon after this, alarm was given that Stirn was extremely ill, and supposed to have taken poison; he was immediately visited by the sheriff, and Mr. Akerman, the keeper of the prison, who found him in a state of stupefaction, but not yet convulsed; a surgeon was procured, and several methods tried to discharge his stomach of the poison, but without effect; he was then let blood, which apparently rendered him worse.

About nine o'clock he was pale and speechless, his jaw was fallen, and his eyes were fixed, and about five minutes before eleven he expired.

It does not appear what reason Matthews had for charging Stirn with an attempt upon his wife; but Stirn solemnly declared in his last moments that there was none. He expressed many obligations to Mr. Crawford, who often visited him in prison with great kindness and humanity; and perhaps if he had been in a situation more suitable not only to his hopes, but to his merit and his birth, he would have been less jealous of affronts, and, conscious of undisputed dignity, would have treated rudeness and slander with contempt, instead of pursuing them with revenge.

He spent his life in perpetual transitions from outrage and fury, to remorse and regret; one hour drawing his sword upon his dearest friends, to revenge some imaginary affront, and the next lamenting his folly, and entreating their pardon with contrition and tears. How many are they whose keen sensibility, and violence of temper, keep

them nearly in the same situation, though they have not yet been pushed to the same excess ; let such take warning from this mournful example, and strive gradually to cure their vehemence of temper, instead of allowing it to overcome them.

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## JOHN PERROTT,

(A BANKRUPT,)

*Executed in Smithfield, November 11, 1761, for concealing part of his effects.*

JOHN PERROTT was born at Newport Pagnal, in Buckinghamshire, about sixty miles north of London, in the year 1723, being about thirty-eight years of age at his death. His father died when he was seven years old, and his mother about two years afterwards, leaving him a fortune of about 1500*l*. After the death of his parents, he was, by the direction of a guardian, placed in the foundation school of Gilsborough, in Northamptonshire, where he continued five years : he was then, being about fifteen years old, put apprentice to his half-brother at Hempstead in Hertfordshire, where he served out his time. In the year 1747, he came up to London, and began to trade for himself in foreign white lace, but kept no shop. In the beginning of the year 1749, he took a house, and opened a warehouse in Blow-bladder-street. About the year 1752, he removed from Blow-bladder-street to Ludgate-hill, where he opened a linen-draper's shop, and dealt in various other articles, stiling himself merchant. From the time of his opening this shop, till the year 1759, he returned annually about two thousand pounds ; and was remarkably punctual in his payments. Having thus established his reputation, and finding that no credit which he should ask, would be refused him, he formed a scheme of abusing this confidence, which he began to put in execution by contracting for goods of different sorts, to the value of 30,000*l*. the greatest part of which, amounting to the value of 25,000*l*. he actually got into his possession. In pursuance of his project, it was

necessary to convert these goods into ready money as soon as possible ; he therefore employed one Henry Thompson, (who had for three or four years acted as his agent, or broker) to sell them for ready money. Thompson, at this time, kept a little house in Monkwell-street, near Wood-street, whither the goods were sent in the dusk of the evening, and whither he invited some of the principal traders to look at them, as goods consigned to him from the places where they were manufactured. Perrott always set a price upon them, which Thompson shewed to his chapman, who usually fixed another price at which they would buy ; at this price Thompson was always ordered to sell, though it was frequently fifteen and twenty per cent. below prime cost.

When he had thus converted the goods he obtained upon credit into money, and before the time when he was to pay for them arrived, he summoned his creditors together, who accordingly met on the 17th of January, 1760, at the Half-moon tavern, in Cheapside ; where he acquainted them that he was unable to pay the whole of what he owed, referring himself entirely to their pleasure, and promising to acquiesce in all such measures as they should propose to pursue for their own benefit and security.

This conduct, and these professions, had so plausible an appearance, that Perrott's creditors conceived a favourable opinion of him, notwithstanding the loss they were likely to suffer : it was however determined, that a commission of bankruptcy should be sued out against him, and Perrott having agreed to cause himself to be denied the next day to a person whom his creditors were to send to demand money, as the common and most ready foundation of commissions of bankruptcy : such a commission was issued against him on the 19th of January, the second day after meeting, and Perrott being found and declared a bankrupt, surrendered himself as such.

The 26th of the same month, the 4th of February, and the 4th of March, were appointed for his appearance before the commissioners, to make a full disclosure of his estate and effects.

On the 26th of January, he did not appear, and though he appeared on the 4th of February, and was sworn, yet he declared that he was not prepared to make a full discovery of his effects, and requested to have the time limited for that purpose enlarged, which request was granted.

But two of Perrott's creditors, having been at this meeting chosen assignees of his estate, they found upon an inspection of his accounts and affairs, such a deficiency and confusion, as gave them just reason to suspect his integrity; and it was now thought necessary to examine him as soon as possible. He was accordingly summoned before the commissioners on the 26th of February, and then being hard pressed, he acknowledged that he had bought goods since the year 1758, to the amount of 20,000*l.* and sold them himself, or by Thompson, for ready money at fifteen or twenty per cent. under prime cost; and that about five years before, he hired a house in Hide-street, near Bloomsbury-square at 30*l.* per annum rent, and furnished it at the expence of about 130*l.* that it was for a lady, and that he lived in it for about a year and a half, and then quitted it, and sold the furniture. And he swore also, that he had not since that time any other house or lodging, or paid for the lodging of any other person.

An examination which produced such proof of the bankrupt's misconduct, greatly increased the suspicions of his creditors, that more knavery was intended; and it appeared that though he had kept regular books from 1752 to 1757, yet that at the end of that time they were in some confusion, and afterwards in total disorder.—Neither were any traces to be discovered of accounts between him and Thompson, notwithstanding the very large transactions between them, which was another reasonable cause to suspect fraudulent designs.

These transactions between Perrott and Thompson, were thought a sufficient reason to summon Thompson before the commissioners; and, on the first of March he appeared, and deposed that he had sold goods for Perrott to a great value, at fifteen or twenty per cent. under prime cost, and that he was ordered by Perrott not to declare the goods were his.

It was also discovered, during this examination of Thompson, that on the third day after the commission was issued, Perrott sent to him by his apprentice a paper parcel, sealed with three seals, desiring he would take care of it; that he accordingly locked it up in his bureau; and seeing Perrott a day or two afterwards, was told by him, that it contained papers relating to private transactions between him and one Holt, of Newport Pagnel, in which his creditors had no concern: and that on Wednesday the 29th of February, the day after his first examination, Perrott redemanded this paper parcel, and again received it from Thompson, who never knew its contents.

In the mean time Perrott knowing himself justly suspected, and apprehending that his creditors would now insist on his making a final discovery, on the 4th of March he applied to the lord keeper by petition, without the intervention or assent of his creditors, for enlarging the time limited for such discovery: and when the commissioners met on the 4th of March, he caused them to be served with the lord keeper's order for enlarging it forty-six days.

In the mean time, farther information having been received of Perrott's particular connections, it was thought proper to examine one Patrick Donelly, a peruke-maker in Bell-yard, near Temple-bar, upon whose examination it appeared, that Perrott, about a fortnight after the commission issued against him, sent to him two large boxes, and one hair trunk, which he said contained wearing apparel, and desired that they might be kept for him till he could procure lodgings for himself; that in about a week these boxes were carried to the last house in a court in Queen-square, Holborn, which was kept by a woman, whose name was Ferne.

In order to pursue the track thus gradually found, Mrs. Ferne was examined the 28th of March by the commissioners, who met for that purpose; when she declared upon her oath, that she had known the bankrupt about a year, and that he had never put into her possession any bank notes, cash, or any other effects whatsoever, belong

ing to him, and that she did not know of any effects he had. Perrott himself being also examined at the same time, admitted his acquaintance with Mrs. Ferne, but swore that he had deposited no part of his property with her, except some wearing apparel; and that the paper parcel, sealed with three seals, which he told Thompson contained accounts of private transactions between him and one Holt of Newport Pagnel, contained nothing but letters from the fair sex, which he had since destroyed.

His creditors, however, still continued to treat him with great lenity, and Perrott, in order to facilitate his obtaining his certificate, formed a design of sacrificing one of them to the rest.

He was indebted to Mr. Edward Whitton of Northampton, in 4100*l.* and Mr. Whitton having expressed himself with some warmth of resentment, upon hearing Perrott was become a bankrupt, at the very time when he pretended to derive great advantages from his business, in order to cajole Whitton to advance him more money, under the pretence of enlarging it: Perrott conceived a project, by which he could at once take off the weight of Mr. Whitton, as a creditor, and by lessening the loss of the rest, dispose them to treat him more favourably.

When Mr. Whitton, therefore, appeared to claim his debt of 4100*l.*; Perrott pretended that no more than fifteen or 1800*l.* was legally due to him, the rest of his demand being accumulated by usury and extortion; for that Whitton, whose debt was money lent, not only charged ten per cent. interest for the original loan, but had also charged interest upon interest, at the same rate.

It is a sufficient refutation of this wicked calumny, in which the most flagitious injustice was complicated with the basest ingratitude, to say that the commissioners, after the most scrupulous and deliberate enquiry, allowed the whole of Mr. Whitton's debt, to the satisfaction of all the other creditors of Perrott's, though in direct opposition to his own solemn and repeated declaration upon oath. It should not, however, be concealed, that to this very Mr. Whitton, Perrott was principally indebted for his introduction into trade, for his support in the course of it,

and for the credit he afterwards obtained ; that he declared to several persons, that whenever he wanted money, he could have it of Mr. Whitton, his *dearest* and most *valuable* friend, at four per cent. : that Perrott, to ingratiate himself farther with this gentleman, made a will about the year 1757, in which he gave away 2000*l.* and made Mr. Whitton his executor, though he was not then worth one shilling ; and stiled him his *best* and *dearest* friend, in letters written so lately as 1758, to induce him to sell out stock at a considerable loss, and put the money into his hands, upon pretence that his profit would enable him to pay lawful interest for it, and replace it whenever it should be required, at whatever price.

On the 19th of April, 1760, the forty-six days expired, which Perrott had, by petition, procured to be added to the time limited for the disclosure of his estate and effects, and finish his examination.

On this day, therefore, he appeared before the commissioners, and exhibited, upon oath, an account of his effects, which, after giving him credit for all the money he had paid, and making him debtor for all the goods he had sold, from his first entering into trade to his bankruptcy, left a deficiency of no less than 13,513*l.* He was therefore required to declare upon oath what was become of that sum, to which he replied, " That he lost 2000*l.* on goods which he had sold in the last year ; 1000*l.* and upwards, by mournings ; and that for nine or ten years, he was sorry to say, he had been extremely extravagant, and spent large sums of money."

As Perrott, during this examination had also sworn that he never gamed, and as the vast sum unaccounted for, came into his hands only in the last year, it appeared scarcely possible that it should, in that one year, be dissipated by any species of extravagance ; if not dissipated, it was concealed, and Perrott, therefore was the same night committed to Newgate, for " not having given satisfactory answers on his examination."

In Newgate he was constantly visited by Mrs. Ferne, who was always elegantly dressed, and came in a chariot,

or post-chaise, attended by a servant in livery, or a maid-servant, or both.

They used frequently to dress a chop themselves, and Perrott condescended to clean his own knives; yet his folly and improvidence were so great, that at this very time, he indulged himself and madam with green pease, at five shillings a quart.

After he had continued in Newgate six weeks, he gave notice to the commissioners, that he would give a more satisfactory account of the deficiency in his estate, and being therefore brought before them on the 5th of June, 1760, he gave in, upon oath, the following account:—

Fitting up my warehouse in Blow-bladder-street,		
and furnishing the same	- -	£.100
Rent and boy's wages, during my stay there	-	100
Travelling expences during the same	- -	100
My own diet during that time	- -	125
Clothes, hats, wigs, and other wearing neccessaries		200
Fitting up my house on Ludgate-hill	- -	100
Furnishing the same	- - -	200
House-keeping, during my stay there, with rent,		
taxes, and servants' wages	- -	2700
Clothes, hats, wigs, shoes, and other wearing ap-		
parel, during my stay there	- -	720
Travelling expences during my stay on Ludgate-hill		360
Horses, and keeping them, saddles, bridles, and		
farrier's bill, during my residence on Ludgate-		
hill and Blow-bladder-street	- -	570
Tavern expences, coffee-house expences, and		
places of diversion during the above time		920
Expences attending the connection I had with the		
fair-sex	- - - -	5550
Paid Mr. Thompson for selling goods by com-		
mission	- - - -	300
Forgave him a debt in consideration of his trouble		.
and time, in getting bills accepted, &c.	-	30
Lost by goods and mourning	- -	3000
		<hr/>
Total		£. 15,075

To this account he added the most solemn asseveration upon oath, that he had not concealed any part of his estate and effects whatsoever.

With this account the commissioners being equally dissatisfied, they sent him back to Newgate, and some time after, he petitioned the lord keeper to be discharged; but his lordship, upon hearing read the last deposition which Perrott had annexed to his petition, thought it so infamous, that he would not order any attendance upon it.

As the creditors had now no doubt of the concealment of great part of Perrott's estate, they advertised a reward of twenty per cent. for such part of it as should be discovered.

In consequence of this advertisement, one Sarah Reed came before the commissioners, on the 20th June, 1760, and deposed, that she lived with Mrs. Ferne, as a servant, in the house of one Mrs. Trowers, in Brunswick-row, Queen-square, till the then last October; that Perrott there became acquainted with Mrs. Ferne, and soon after took her to Derby, and at her return made her a present of ten guineas in a purse.

That the deponent in February, 1760, went to pay a visit to Mrs. Ferne, and was backwards and forwards about a fortnight; that during this time, Mrs. Ferne being about to go out, returned in great haste to lock a bureau, saying, there was five hundred pounds in it, which the deponent believes to be Perrott's property, because Mrs. Ferne had been frequently so distressed for money, as to employ the deponent to pawn her wearing apparel, to discharge her rent. That about this time, one Catherine Bowen, then servant to Mrs. Ferne, told the deponent, that Mrs. Ferne had given her a parcel of papers, and desired her to hide them, which she did, behind the pictures and glasses in Mrs. Ferne's apartments, that they were so given her to hide because Perrott's assignees were expected to search the rooms. She deposed also, that about a week before Perrott and Ferne were summoned to their examination, she went up with Catherine Bowen into the garret, where Bowen took up a cushion that lay

in a great chair, and took out a packet of papers sealed with three seals, and tied with packthread, which papers Bowen said she believed to be bank-notes, and replaced where she found them. That after Perrott and Ferne were gone before the commissioners, she and Bowen went to look for the papers, and they were gone; and upon going to Mrs. Ferne's dressing-room, found it locked, which it never used to be, and of which she took greater notice, as Bowen had received orders, that if any persons should come to search the apartments, they should be shewn those of Perrott only, and not those of Ferne.

However strange it may appear, that a person, entrusted with bank notes to a great value, should give them to a servant maid, to hide under cushions, and behind pictures, and without any apparent motive, not only risk the loss of such notes by the dishonesty of the servant, but trust her with a secret of equal importance, by telling her they were secreted from a search expected to be made by the injured creditors of a bankrupt, yet there was no reason to doubt but that this witness had seen a paper parcel, sealed with three seals, which appeared to have been secreted, or that this parcel was any other than that which Perrott had entrusted to the care of Thompson, and concerning which he had already given different and inconsistent accounts.

In order to trace this important parcel still farther, Catherine Bowen was also summoned, and examined; and though she denied that Mrs. Ferne ever gave her any paper to hide, or that she ever pretended she had so done, yet she admitted that as she was brushing a chair in the garret, she found such a paper parcel, which she put there again; that she was then alone, and that about a week afterwards, the same parcel was found out by Sarah Reed, but she knows not by what means; that they conversed together about it, and said to each other, that they believed it contained something of value: that she and Reed went up to look for it some time afterwards and it was gone; and going to seek farther in Mrs. Ferne's dressing-room, they found the door locked, which was unusual.

These depositions of Reed and Bowen sufficiently coincided to leave no doubt of a concealment, nor of the place where it was made ; yet these circumstances were not sufficient to enable the assignees legally to avail themselves of the powers with which they had been invested, to apply for search warrants, or prefer bills of indictment.

Nothing farther was therefore done in the course of the proceedings, except making an order for the dividend of five shillings in the pound, till the September following, when Perrott caused himself to be brought up by a Habeas Corpus before Lord Mansfield, in order to be discharged ; but his lordship, after having examined the affair, declared that the commissioners had done wisely and honestly, in committing the bankrupt to prison ; and that there he should remain till he had answered the questions they propounded to him to their satisfaction.

Perrott, however, on the 17th day of December following, petitioned the lord keeper a second time, alledging that he had finished and signed his final examination, as by law required, before such question had been propounded ; and that, having sworn he had made no concealment, the commissioners had no right to confine him.

When the matter of this petition was heard before the lord keeper, he directed that the validity of the warrant upon which Perrott was committed, which was a question of law, should be determined in the court of King's Bench.

This point was accordingly argued before the court of King's Bench, before which Perrott was again brought by Habeas Corpus, and the court was unanimously of opinion, that the warrant was legal, and therefore remanded him to prison.

On the 13th of March, the lord keeper dismissed the petition, and declared himself to be of the same opinion with the court of King's Bench.

Perrott hoped to prove, that, by the laws in force, concerning bankrupts, the commissioners were obliged to receive as true, whatever the bankrupt should please to

swear at his final examination, and that they have afterwards no power of commitment; but finding himself disappointed, he submitted himself to another examination; and being brought before the commissioners on the 21st of March, and asked the same question, he gave an account of his becoming acquainted with one Sarah Powell, otherwise Taylor, about six years before, with whom he continued an intimate acquaintance till he became a bankrupt, but who died soon after, as he was informed about ten months ago, while he was a prisoner in Newgate. And he delivered in an account, upon oath, of his having remitted to this woman, from Christmas 1758 to Christmas 1759, (though she was during that time, by his own account, dying of a consumption, and was, for that reason, in the country, sometimes at Weybridge, in Surrey, and sometimes at Bath,) no less than five thousand pounds, in cash and bank notes, which he received of Thompson for the goods that he employed him to sell; at the same time confessing, that, before this time, she had never cost him more than one hundred pounds a-year.

When he was asked, whether this woman, whom he supplied with no less than five thousand pounds in one year, kept any carriage, he said, he could not tell. When he was asked, by what servants she was attended, he answered by a man and a maid, whose names he never knew; and he also declared, that though he saw her after her return from Bath, and perceived she was past hopes of recovery, he never asked her how she intended to dispose of her effects, nor did he desire any person to attend her as a physician or apothecary, in her last illness, or even knew by whom she was attended; that he visited her at her lodgings in streets, the names of which he has entirely forgot; and that he directed many letters to her he does not know where: but he said, that the paper parcel with three seals contained several of her letters, which he had since burnt; and that he did not disclose these particulars before, because it was her dying request that he should not.

As it was impossible to believe that Perrott, who

when this woman was in health and spirits, never spent more upon her than one hundred pounds a-year, should, when she was languishing in a consumption, and after his connection with Mrs. Ferne, send her so large a sum as five thousand pounds, and as his account was in every other respect incredible, even to absurdity, the commissioners sent him back to Newgate, for the same reason as they first committed him.

Not, however, to suffer the incredibility even of this account to rest upon its own extravagance and inconsistency, an inquiry was made after this Sarah Powell; and it was discovered, by information of undoubtful credit, that her true name was Rachael Sims; that she was the daughter of a tradesman at the Devizes in Wiltshire, and had been in keeping, and was deserted, when she first became acquainted with Perrott; that she took the name of Powell, because Perrott's linen was marked with a P; that he also went by the name of Powell, and passed for her husband at many houses and lodgings, in town and country; that she contracted a habit of drinking, which was the cause of her death; that she had just reason to complain of Perrott's parsimony; and that, when she died, she did not leave money enough to bury her.

Perrott, however, scrupled not, upon the merit of the answer, false and incredible as it was, to cause himself again to be brought by Habeas Corpus into the court of King's Bench to be discharged; nor did the court make any scruple to order him back from whence he came.

But Perrott was not yet discouraged, and hoping for better success in another court, he brought an action into the Common Pleas against the commissioners, for false imprisonment.

In the mean time a reward of forty per cent. was offered by advertisements, often repeated, for the discovery of any part of Perrott's estate, but without effect. It happened, however, that as Mr. Hewitt, one of Perrott's assignees, was walking one morning in June upon the terrace in Lincoln's-Inn gardens, he observed a woman leaning over the wall, who had something so disconsolate and forlorn in her appearance, that he could not resist his

curiosity to speak to her. Upon enquiring what was the cause of her present apparent distress, she told him that she had been turned out of her service, by one Mrs. Ferne, and that she knew not where to go. The name of Ferne immediately rendered his curiosity interested in a high degree, and he sent her to Mr. Cobb, who was clerk under Perrott's commission, to get her examined.

The examination of this woman, whose name was Mary Harris, was taken before justice Fielding, on the 23rd of June, 1761, and was to this effect: That she had known Mrs. Ferne about four years; that when she first knew her, she was just come from the service of Mrs. Hermon, at the Tea-chest in Watling-street, and lodged at one Jefferson's, a grocer, in Shire-lane, Temple-bar, where the deponent also lodged, and was her bed-fellow; that her parents were poor people, who had had a little farm in Derbyshire, of about thirty pounds a-year; and that Ferne herself was without money, and in great want of clothes and other necessaries; that in February then last, (Feb. 1761) Ferne called upon the deponent, at her lodgings, and invited her to come to see her; that she went to see her the next day, and agreed to live with her as a servant.

That accordingly she went into her service on the 5th of March, and continued in it, till the 4th of June following: That during this time she had frequent discourses about one John Perrott, a bankrupt, and frequently saw a number of bank notes in her possession, to the amount of four thousand pounds. That she told her all her fortune was owing to a person whose picture she shewed, which she afterwards knew to be that of Perrott. That she went daily with her mistress to Newgate, where she often heard him and her mistress discourse how they would live when he got his discharge.

Once in particular, her mistress told Perrott, that the house of Sir John Smith, Bart. in Queen-square, was to be sold, upon which Perrott said, "My dear, have you a mind for it?" She replied, "Yes, I can get it for eight or nine hundred pounds." And he answered, "My life, if you have a mind for it, I should like it above all places

in the world ;” and in consequence of this conversation Ferne went and bid nine hundred and fifty pounds for the house, and took the half of a bank note of one thousand pounds, to pay for it, though she did not buy it, and told the deponent that the other half of the note was in the hands of Perrott, and that she frequently cut bank notes, and kept half, and gave Perrott half, who kept an account of them.

In consequence of this information, Ferne’s apartments, which were very extensively furnished, in particular, with a chamber organ, were searched by virtue of Fielding’s warrant ; and, at the same time, Perrott’s rooms in Newgate, by virtue of a warrant from the commissioners.

In Ferne’s possession were found the halves of four bank notes, amounting in all to one hundred and eighty five pounds, and the corresponding halves were found at the bottom of Perrott’s trunk, hid, or sewed up very carefully in a piece of rag, together with the signed moiety of another bank note for one thousand pounds.

Upon this discovery, Ferne was carried before the justice, and examined, concerning the bank notes, when she insisted they were her own property, and received from gentlemen, as a gratuity, for favours ; but these very notes were, by the indefatigable diligence of those concerned, traced back into money paid by Thompson, for goods which he sold on Perrott’s account.

After some subsequent examinations of Mrs. Ferne, and of one Martin Matthias, and one Pye Donkin, who acted as attornies for Perrott, which examinations all tended to prove that Perrott had deposited notes to a great value in Ferne’s hands, and to expose the shameless perjury of Ferne, all proceedings were suspended till the trial in September, 1761, when it being proved, that the notes found in the possession of Ferne and Perrott, were the produce of Perrott’s estate, he was convicted, and received sentence of death.

From the time of his having been charged with a capital offence, he was put into irons ; yet he seemed healthy and cheerful, and expressed great confidence of his being acquitted.

After his conviction, he was removed from his chamber to a cell, where he contracted a cold and hoarseness, and became fretful, querulous, and impatient. He had, however, even then formed a scheme of escaping from prison; and a party of sailors were hired to come and rescue him in the day time, when brought down from the cell to the chapel, by securing the turnkey at the gate, forcing the keys from him, and then carrying off the prisoner. To facilitate the execution of this project, Perrott complained that the public prayers were not so frequent as they ought to be, and was very zealous to attend oftener at chapel; but some intelligence having been given to Mr. Akerman, that a rescue was intended, orders were sent down, that he should be more closely confined, and not permitted to be out of his cell any longer than he continued at chapel; the ordinary also received a hint, not to visit him more than once a day in the day time, and at uncertain hours.

He was often urged to make a full disclosure of his effects, great part of which were still concealed, but he obstinately refused it, saying, he was to die, and that was atonement sufficient for the wrongs he had committed.

When he was told the dead warrant was come down, he did not express such agony of confusion and terror, as is generally expressed on the occasion, but said, "The will of God be done." He performed such devotion, and heard such instruction, as are common to persons in his unhappy circumstances.

He was in consequence of his own request visited the day before his death by his assignees, to whom, however, he refused to answer particular questions relating to his estate, giving as a reason, that he had received the Sacrament. This reason for answering no questions, seems to prove that he had secretly determined not to disclose his estate by answering truly; because, in this case, he avoided the crime of falsehood by being silent, though otherwise his answer would have coincided with every part of christian duty, and his having received the Sacrament, would rather have been a reason for his answering them than not.

On the morning of his execution, he confessed the justice of his sentence, and acknowledged the injury he had done to his benefactor Mr. Whitton, and asked his forgiveness; he expressed great solicitude about what should become of his body, desiring it might be buried in the church of the place where he was born. To this he added another request, which was much more rational: he desired that the time might be enlarged in the chapel, and shortened at the place of execution. He was in chapel therefore from eight to three quarters after nine; the next half hour was employed in knocking off his irons, about ten minutes more were spent in taking leave of his fellow convict, one Lee, who was condemned for forgery; and about a quarter after ten, he appeared pale and trembling at the door of the press yard, and was immediately put into the cart.

As he was executed in Smithfield, his journey was not far, yet he often looked round with a kind of wild eagerness and despair, common to those in his situation, who consider every thing they behold, as an object, which they shall behold no more.

When he stood up under the gallows, he expressed yet greater horror and despair, but soon recovered some degree of fortitude: and when the ordinary first came into the cart to him, he found him looking about enquiring after his hearse, which he was soon satisfied was at hand; he then sent a red checked handkerchief to Lee, by a person present, saying, he had promised it for a token; this, however, the wretch who received it, never delivered. After this, his mind seemed more composed, and some prayers being repeated, in which he seemed to join with great ardour, he was about 11 o'clock turned off.

He appears, by two letters, which are printed in the account of him, published under the inspection of his assignees, to have had an inelegant, an illiterate, and in every respect a contemptible low understanding; yet, as is very common with such characters, he had a kind of low cunning, which like that of a lunatic, is always employed for an ill purpose; and which, not being sufficiently uni-

form in itself, and extensive with respect to its objects, is always untimely disappointed.

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JOHN M'NAUGHTON, Esq.

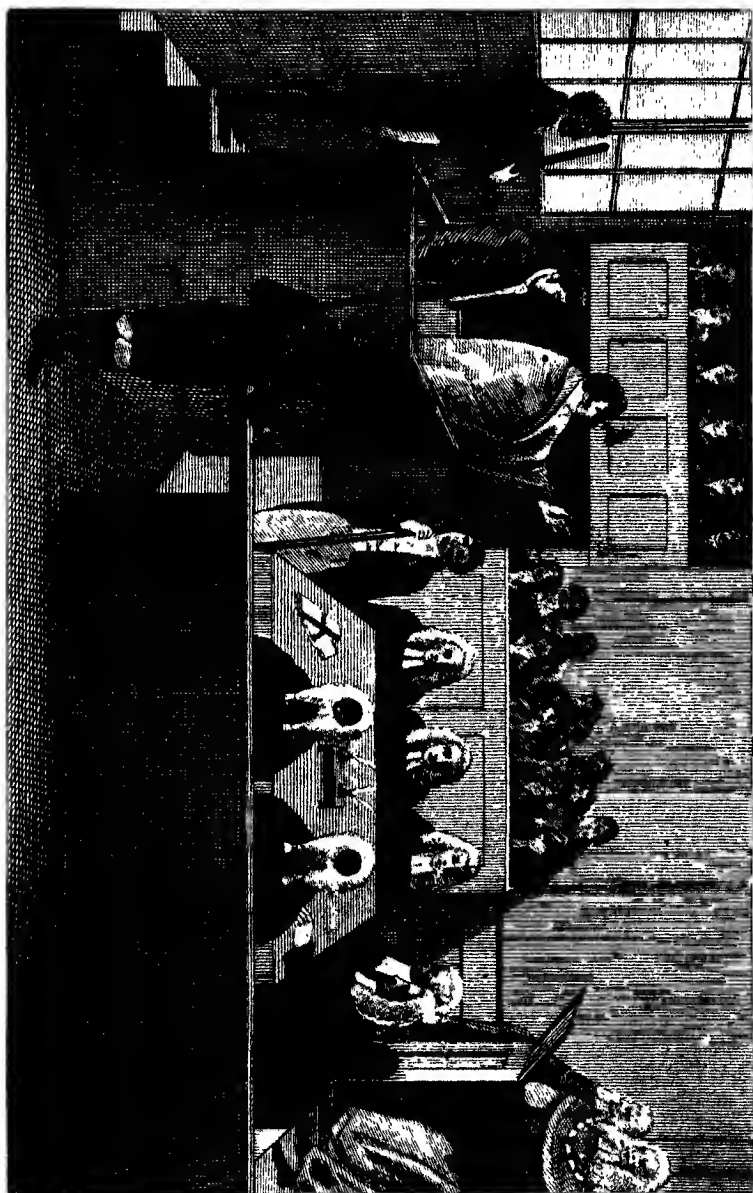
*Executed in Ireland, December 15, 1761, for the murder of Miss Knox.*

JOHN M'NAUGHTON, Esq. was the son of a merchant at Derry, whose father had been an alderman of Dublin. To an outward form, which was perfectly engaging, he added the genteelest demeanor, so as to promise the very reverse of what was the real disposition of his soul, which was subject to every blast of passion! And though there was a great degree of love and softness in his composition, yet when ruffled and opposed, he was suddenly transformed; all his seeming rationality instantly disappeared, and he became desperate and dangerous.

Mr. M'Naughton was educated in Trinity College, Dublin. When of age he entered into a landed estate of six hundred pounds a-year, in the county of Tyrone, which was left him by Dr. M'Naughton, his uncle.

The first vice he fell into was gaming, by which he very soon did great injury to his fortune; and though he continued (as most novices do who play with sharpers) in a constant run of ill-luck, and was soon obliged to mortgage; yet his losses made no visible alteration in his temper. His pride kept him within due bounds there. All was placid with the polite M'Naughton, and he lost his money to the very last, with that graceful composure that became the man who had a plentiful fortune to support it. But strong as his passion this way might be, it was not strong enough to secure him against the attacks of love, and falling a victim to the charms of a young lady, he very speedily married her.

His very agreeable person, and soft polite address insured him success with the ladies; but as his character was generally known, the young lady's friends took all





possible care to secure her effects ; and the lover was too eager to gratify his passion, and too rash in his temper, to trouble himself about the disposition of fortune.

The reader may well suppose, that the unavoidable expences of a wife and servants in Dublin, (as he pursued his old course of gaming) must soon increase his difficulties, and introduce a new scene of troubles. It did so most fatally, as will appear by the following melancholy accident :

A sheriff's writ was taken out against Mr. M'Naughton, for some large debt ; and as he suspected the danger, he kept himself as secure at home as possible, by which means the bailiffs could get no admittance. The creditor, or some other persons concerned, hearing this, had influence enough with the high sheriff, to prevail on him to go to Mr. M'Naughton's house, and take him prisoner.

As the sheriff went in a chair, and appeared like a gentleman, the servants admitted him, and shewed him into a parlour, where their master was alone : the sheriff told him he was his prisoner. On this M'Naughton flew into a rage, and calling out for pistols, he frightened his poor listening wife to such a degree, that, (being near her time) she fell in labour, and died in childbed.

The high sheriff was greatly and universally blamed for this seeming officious behaviour ; and this dreadful consequence threw Mr. M'Naughton into such distraction, that he made several attempts upon his life and was obliged to be attended and watched for some months after. At his return from the country, after eighteen months absence, he appeared greatly altered, like a wretch worn out with grief ; so very susceptible was that frail man of the excess of every passion. But this fatal accident, which was near costing him his life, was attended with one good consequence, it immediately cut off all expence ; and that long retirement into the country, was of some service to his troubled fortunes, and gave him an opportunity at his return to Dublin, to appear there like himself, in some degree of splendour

Time, and the amusements and gaiety of a court, are the best physicians for every grief. There he renewed his old, and, no doubt, contracted new friendships, and kept most faithfully to his favourite vice, gaming, which he then pursued with great spirit.

Some few years before this, when Mr. M'Naughton had both character and interest in the world, he was appointed collector for the county of Coleraine; but the public money soon became a dangerous commodity in the hands of a gamester; and when there began to be a large balance against him, he not only lost that profitable employment, but was obliged to get one of his wife's relations to be security for him, and it is said that gentleman remained some time after in trouble on his account. The loss of that employment was the first mark of public discredit that befel this unhappy man.

About the period of his reviving from his troubles, Mr. M'Naughton made his addresses secretly to Miss Knox, daughter of Richard Knox, Esq. of Prohen in the county of Derry, a gentleman possessed of an estate of about fifteen hundred pounds per annum; and as by the marriage-settlement five thousand pounds had been settled on the younger children, Miss Knox, having only one brother and no sister, she was entitled to the whole of five thousand pounds even though she disobliged her parents by marriage. We must add to this bait, the beauty, sweetness of temper, and other accomplishments of the young lady, which were remarkable. She was then about fifteen.

Mr. M'Naughton, who was an intimate friend of her father's, and a constant visitor, soon obtained a promise from the young lady to marry him, if he could get her father's consent.

He was soon after encouraged to talk with Mr. Knox, on that subject, who not only absolutely refused his consent, and gave his reasons for it, but shewed his resentment, by forbidding him his house.

Mr. M'Naughton then begged Mr. Knox would permit him to visit as formerly (as he said it would look strange to the world to be forbid visiting a family all the

neighbours knew he had been so intimate in,) and solemnly promised, upon his honour, never more to think of, or mention this affair; and added, that as he had not spoke of it to the young lady, Mr. Knox need never do it, and so the affair would drop of itself.

Thus were the father's eyes and ears once more sealed up by this artful man, who continued his addresses to the daughter, and told her Mr. Knox had promised him his consent; but desiring, however, that no farther mention might be made of the affair, for a year or two, till some material business was decided, which he would acquaint him with.

Thus he deceived the young lady, who now more freely gave way to his passion, and again promised she would marry him as soon as that consent was obtained. He remained some time, constantly watching his opportunity to complete his design.

One day, being in company with Miss Knox and a young gentleman (a very boy) in a retired room in the house, he pressed her to marry him, protesting he never could be happy till he was sure of her; and with an air of sprightly raillery, pulling out a prayer book, he began to read the marriage-service, and insisted on the young lady's making the responses, which she did, but to every one she always added, "provided her father consented."

Some short time after this, Miss Knox going to a friend's house on a week's visit, Mr. M'Naughton being also an intimate there, soon followed her. Here he fixed his scene for action; here he claimed her, and calling her his wife, insisted on consummation, which the young lady absolutely refused, and leaving the house, went directly and informed her uncle of the whole affair. On this Mr. Knox wrote a letter to M'Naughton, telling him what a base dishonourable villain he was, and bid him avoid his sight for ever.

Upon the receipt of this letter, M'Naughton advertised his marriage in the public newspapers, cautioning every other man not to marry his lawful wife.

This was answered by a very spirited and proper advertisement from the father, with an affidavit of the whole affair from the daughter annexed.

Mr. Knox then brought an action against him in the prerogative court, to set aside this pretended marriage, which was found to be only a contract ; for the breach of which, the party can only be sued at common law, and condemned to pay costs and damages ; besides, it is probable that the young lady's being under age, rendered this contract void in itself.

At this time Mr. M'Naughton was absconded from his debts, and therefore could not appeal to the court of delegates, where the former decree was confirmed. In consequence of this decree, Judge Scott issued his warrant to apprehend him.

When M'Naughton heard this, he wrote a most impudent threatening letter to the judge, and, it is said, lay in wait to have him murdered, when he was last at the assizes there, but missed him, by the judge's taking another road. Upon this the judge applied to the lord chief justice, who issued out another writ against him, that drove him to England.

Mr. M'Naughton returned to Ireland in the summer of 1761, and by constantly hovering round Mr. Knox's house, obliged the family to be upon their guard, and the young lady to live like a recluse.

However, about the middle of the summer she ventured to a place called Swaddling-bar, to drink the mineral waters there for her health ; thither this unhappy man followed her, and was seen in a beggar's habit, sometimes in a sailor's : thus disguised he was detected, and then swore in the presence of several that he would murder the whole family, if he did not get possession of his wife ! and yet so infatuated were they, as to suffer him to get away once more to England, where he was supposed to be by Mr. Knox, at the time this fatal event happened.

He remained in London till the month of October ; and several of his acquaintance here with whom he spent his evenings have since observed, that he was never easy when alone with them, but when Miss Knox was the subject, and he had often concluded by saying, he feared that affair would end in blood.

During his residence in London at this last visit, it is said, he gamed, cheated, borrowed money from all his

acquaintance, and imposed on many by forged letters and false tokens from their friends.

It sounds something severe to speak thus harshly of a gentleman, particularly one under misfortune. But this truth must be observed.—A man of worth and honour, brought to distress by unforeseen accidents, may, and often does maintain his integrity and good name, under a series of misfortunes; whereas the man, reduced to poverty and distress by gaming, or any other extravagant vice, too often descends to mean actions; and he who commits a mean action is in great danger of committing a base one.

About the first of November, this unhappy wanderer was seen skulking in the country of Ireland, and two nights prior to the murder was known to sleep, with three of his accomplices, at the house of one Mr.—— a hearth-money collector. The morning of the 10th, the day the fact was committed, they all came with a sack-full of fire-arms to a little cabin on the road side, where Mr. Knox was to pass in his coach and six. From this cabin M'Naughton detached one of them to go to an old woman that lived at some distance on the road side, under pretence of buying some yarn of her, but really to wait the coming up of Mr. Knox's coach, and inquire whose it was. When it appeared in sight, he asked that question, and was answered, that it was Mr. Knox, who, with his family, was going to Dublin. He then made her point to shew him how they sat, which she did; Mr. Knox, his wife, his daughter, and maid servant. As soon as he had got this information, he ran off to inform M'Naughton that the coach was coming, and to make ready; that he had looked into the coach, and that Mr. Knox was only attended by one servant, and a faithful fellow, a smith, who lived near him, and was foster-father\* to Miss Knox, one whom M'Naughton could never bribe; for most of the other servants had suffered

\* A character not much known or regarded in England, but in Ireland of no small notice. This man's wife was wet nurse, and suckled Miss Knox, from whence those poor people generally contract a faithful affection.

themselves to be tampered with, and when discovered, had been discharged. As soon as the coach came near the cabin, two of the accomplices, armed with guns, presented them at the postillion and coachman, which stopped the coach, while M'Naughton fired at the smith with a blunderbuss; upon this, the faithful smith, who luckily escaped the shot, presented his piece, which unfortunately missed fire, and gave M'Naughton and one of his comrades an opportunity to fire at the poor fellow; and both wounded him. Immediately upon this, two shots were fired at the coach, one by M'Naughton himself, and another by one of his assistants; and finding that the passengers drew up the windows, he ran round, and fired into the coach obliquely with a gun loaded with five balls, all which took place in the body of the unhappy Miss Knox. The maid now let down the window, and screamed out her mistress was murdered. On hearing this, the only livery servant that attended the coach, properly armed, came from behind a turf-stack, where he had hid himself, and firing at M'Naughton, wounded him in the back; and about the same time Mr. Knox fired one pistol, which was the last of eight shot fired on this strange and dreadful occasion.

Miss Knox was carried into the cabin, where she expired in about three hours. The murderer and his accomplices fled, but the country was soon raised in pursuit of them, and amongst others some of Sir James Caldwell's light horse, who were directed to search the house, and offices of one Wenslow, a farmer, not far distant from the horrid scene of action. But though some of the family knew he was concealed there, they pretended ignorance; so that M'Naughton might have escaped, had not the corporal, after they had searched every place, as they imagined, without success, and were going away, bethought himself of the following stratagem. Seeing a labourer digging potatoes in a piece of ground behind the stables, he said to his comrades in the fellow's hearing, "It is a great pity we cannot find this murderer; it would be a good thing for the discoverer, he would certainly get three hundred pounds. Upon which the fellow pointed

to a hay loft. The corporal immediately ran up the ladder and forced open the door ; upon which M'Naughton fired at him and missed him. By the flash of the pistol, the corporal was directed where to fire his piece, which happily wounding M'Naughton, he ran in, and seized him, dragged him out, and instantly tied him on a car, and conducted him to Lifford gaol. Here he remained in the closest confinement, entirely deserted by all his friends and acquaintance, as appeared on the day of his trial, which commenced the 8th of December, 1761, when he was arraigned, with an accomplice, called Dunlap, before baron Mountney, Mr. justice Scott, and counsellor Smith, who went down upon a special commission to try them.

M'Naughton was brought into court on a bier, rolled in a blanket, with a greasy woollen night-cap, the shirt in which he was taken, being all bloody and dirty, and a long beard, which made a dreadful appearance ! In that horrid condition he made a long speech, pointedly and sensibly ! and complained in the most pathetic manner of the hard usage he had met with since his confinement. He said, " they had treated him like a man under sentence, and not like a man that was to be tried. He declared he never intended to kill his dear wife (at saying which he wept ; ) that he only designed to take her away ; that he would make such things appear upon his trial, as should surprise them all." But, alas ! when his trial came on, all this great expectation which he had raised in the mind of every one, came to nothing.

The trial lasted five days. The first day, the 8th, was spent in pleadings to put off the trial, and the reply of the counsel for the crown.

During these debates, M'Naughton often spoke with most amazing spirit and judgment, and much more like an eminent lawyer than any of his counsel ; and the result of that day was, that he should prepare his affidavit, which the court would take into consideration. Accordingly, on the 9th, he was brought into court again, and his affidavit read, in which he swore, that some material witnesses for him were not to be had, particularly one Owens,

who he said was present all the time ; but the judges, after long debates, were of opinion, that nothing sufficient was offered to put off the trial ; however, to shew their indulgence, they would give him that day, and part of the next, to see if he could strengthen his affidavit by that of others. But when the new affidavit was produced on the 10th, it was unanimously and peremptorily resolved by the court, that he had not shewn sufficient cause to postpone his trial, and accordingly they gave him notice to prepare for it on the 11th, at eight o'clock in the morning.

The judges came on the bench at nine o'clock, and sat there till eleven at night, without stirring out of court. During the whole time of the trial, M'Naughton took his notes as regularly as any of the lawyers, and cross-examined all the witnesses, with the greatest accuracy. He was observed to behave with uncommon resolution.

His chief defence was founded on a letter he produced, as wrote to him by Miss Knox, in which she desired him to intercept her on the road to Dublin, and take her away ; but this letter was proved a forgery of his own, which after condemnation he confessed.

He took great pains to exculpate himself from the least design to murder any one, much less his dear wife (as he always called her ;) he declared solemnly, that his intent was only to take her out of the coach, and carry her off ; but as he received the first wound, from the first shot that was fired, the anguish of that wound, and the prospect of his ill success in his design, so distracted him, that being wholly involved in confusion and despair, he fired, he knew not at what, or whom, and had the misfortune to kill the only person in the world that was dear to him ; that he gave the court that trouble, and laboured thus, not to save his own life, (for death was now his choice) but to clear his character from such horrid guilt, as designedly to murder his better half, for whom alone he wished to live.

These were his solemn declarations, but the direct contrary was proved in court by several witnesses, whom he cross-examined with great spirit, and seemed to insinuate,

were brought there to destroy him. And as the jury could only form their opinion on the testimony of the witnesses before them, who were examined on their oaths with the utmost care and solemnity, they brought him in "Guilty."

He heard their verdict without the least concern, telling them, "They had acquitted themselves with justice to their country;" and when Mr. Baron Mountney pronounced the sentence upon him and his accomplice Dunlap, who was found guilty with him, though he did it in so pathetic a manner, as very visibly affected every one, M'Naughton appeared with the same indifference as at the beginning of the trial, and only begged the court would have compassion on poor Dunlap. He said, "he was his tenant; that he possessed a very profitable lease, which was near expiring; that he had promised him a renewal, if he would assist him in recovering his wife; that he had forced his consent to accompany him in that action. He therefore begged of the court to represent Dunlap as a proper object of mercy. For his own life, he said, it was not worth asking for; and, were he to choose, death should be his choice, since Miss Knox, his better half, was dead."

But when the unhappy man's plan for seizing the young lady, and carrying her off, is properly considered, what a scheme of madness does it appear; and how surprising it is that he should get any wretches so blindly infatuated as to aid and assist him in so wild and dangerous an undertaking! Was not the sack full of fire-arms that were carried to the cabin (and perhaps all loaded there!) enough to alarm them that murder might ensue? Do not most families, who travel with an equipage and servants, go armed? and might not this be particularly expected of a family that had *particular* fears?

When the two armed parties met in open day, on such a desperate business, what but murder could be the consequence? and after the loss of two or three lives, suppose the assaulters had been conquerors, where must they have carried their prize? Would not the country have

been raised ? Would not they have been pursued ? Besides, was not the young lady going to Dublin ? A city that unhappy man was too well acquainted with. He knew it is situated near the sea ; that a well-concerted plan laid there for carrying off the lady going home in a sedan chair from some visit, by bribing the chairmen, and having a boat ready on the quays, might, with some degree of probability, have been executed.

But without all doubt, he made all his accomplices and assistants believe, that his design was only to take the young lady away, whom he declared to be his wife ; but the contrary appeared on the trial. There it was sworn by one of the evidences, Mr. Ash, that this unhappy wretch had vowed long ago, to murder Mr. Knox and his whole family ; and this fact evidently appeared, that he had not made the least provision for carrying her off that day, nor once demanded her at the coach side.

Agreeable to the sentence, Mr. M'Naughton, with his accomplice Dunlap, were executed on Tuesday the 15th of December, 1761, near Strabane, in the county of Tyrone.

M'Naughton walked to the place of execution, but being weak of his wounds, was supported between two men. He was dressed in a white flannel waistcoat trimmed with black buttons and holes, a diaper night cap tied with a black ribbon, white stockings, mourning buckles, and a crape tied on his arm. He desired the executioner to be speedy, and the fellow pointing to the ladder, he mounted with great spirit. The moment he was tied up, he jumped from it with such vehemence, as snapped the rope, and he fell to the ground, but without dislocating his neck, or doing himself much injury. When they had raised him on his legs again, he soon recovered his senses ; and the executioner borrowing the rope from Dunlap, and fixing it round M'Naughton's neck, he went up the ladder a second time, and tying the rope himself to the gallows, he jumped from it again with the same force, and appeared dead in a minute.

Thus died the once universally admired M'Naughton,

in the 38th year of his age ! deserted by all who knew him, in poverty and ignominy !

M'Naughton not liking, he said, either the principles or doctrine of the clergyman who first went to prepare him for death, because it seems he made things too terrible to him, Mr. Burgoyne succeeded. As no carpenter could be found to make the gallows, the sheriff looked out for a tree proper for the purpose, and the execution must have been performed on it, had not the uncle of the young lady, and some other gentlemen, made the gallows and put it up. The sheriff was even obliged to take a party of soldiers and force a smith to take off his bolts ; otherwise he must have been obliged, contrary to law, to execute him with his bolts on. The spectators, who saw him drop, when the rope broke, looked upon it as some contrivance for his escape, which they favoured all they could by running away from the place, and leaving it open. The populace would not probably have been so well disposed towards him, had they known of his horrid designs of murder ; but they had been persuaded that he only meant to get possession of his wife.

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## JOHN RICE,

*Executed at Tyburn, May 4, 1763, for Forgery.*

THOUGH extravagance brought this man to an untimely end, and though the amount of the forgery for which he suffered was immense, few criminals have excited more pity.

The fatal consequences of living beyond our income, are so strongly marked in the life of Mr. Rice, that it must surely serve as a caution to every one. Until the discovery of this forgery, his character was unimpeached ; and his name was good to any reasonable amount.

He was the son of Mr. Rice, of Spital-square, a considerable stock-broker, whose behaviour had rendered him esteemed by all who knew him, and the profits of whose profession enabled him to support his family in a style of great gentility.

Young Rice having received a liberal education, succeeded his father in his business, and was so successful as a broker, that his profits were estimated at twelve hundred pounds a-year.

Unhappily for himself, he lived in too gay a manner, having a country-house at Finchley, an elegant town-house in John-street, near Gray's-inn, besides which he kept a coach, chaise, chariot, and several livery-servants : it is probable that Mr. Rice might have supported his credit, but flushed with success, he wished to grow still richer than he was, which led him on to that species of gaming called speculating in the stocks, by which he suffered so greatly, that, at different times, he was said to be a loser to the amount of sixty thousand pounds.

In the vain hope, however, of recovering his circumstances, he was tempted to the commission of forgery. Among his employers, was Mrs. Ann Pierce, a Yorkshire lady, who had a very considerable property in South Sea stock ; and in her name Rice was rash enough to forge letters of attorney, by which he received upwards of 19,900*l*.

Mrs. Pierce having occasion to come to town soon after these transactions, and Rice hearing of the intended journey, he thought it necessary to consult his safety in flight ; and immediately took a post-chaise for Dover, and embarked in the packet-boat for Calais, where he soon landed.

He then travelled to Cambray, a city in French Flanders, which he had been taught to consider as a privileged place, where he could remain unmolested ; it appears, however, that this is not the case ; for the archbishop of Cambray, though a prince of the empire, is subject to the parliament of Tournay, and had therefore no power to protect a criminal fugitive.

Whether Mrs. Rice knew of her husband's design previous to his departure, or by letter from him, is uncertain ; but she determined to follow him, and taking a post-chaise, reached Harwich, where she embarked in the packet for Holland, designing to travel thence to Cambray ; but the wind proving contrary, the vessel was

obliged to put back to Harwich, whence Mrs. Rice returned to London, proposing to re-embark on a future occasion.

It is probable that Mrs. Rice now apprehended herself in security ; but she had no sooner arrived in London than she was taken into custody, and being carried before the lord-mayor, bank-notes to the amount of 4,700*l.* were found sewed up in her stays.

On her examination, she acknowledged whither her husband had retired : and the crime with which he was charged being thought to affect public credit, our ministry dispatched a messenger to the English ambassador at Paris, desiring that he would use his interest in France, to have the culprit delivered up to the justice of the laws of his native country.

This requisition was instantly complied with ; and orders being sent to Cambray, to secure Mr. Rice, notice was transmitted to London, that he was in custody ; on which one of the clerks of the Bank, and another of the South-Sea house, went over with one of the king's messengers, to bring the unhappy man to England.

On their arrival at the prison of Cambray, they found the presumed culprit in a state of great dejection. They were proceeding to have hand-cuffed him ; but he fell on his knees, and with tears implored that they would dispense with this disgraceful circumstance. They generously complied : and Rice was placed in one post-chaise with the messenger, and the gentlemen going before them in another.

Having arrived at Dover they proceeded immediately towards London, and the newspapers having mentioned what had happened respecting Mr. Rice, the public curiosity was so much excited, that crowds of people attended at every place where they stopped to take a view of the unfortunate prisoner.

On his arrival in London, he was carried before the lord-mayor, who remarking the utmost candour, even to generosity, in his answers to the questions that were proposed to him, committed him to the Poultry-compter,

instead of sending him to Newgate; presuming that his situation might be rendered less disagreeable in the former prison than in the latter.

In his way from the Compter to the Old Bailey, he fainted several times, and when brought to the bar, he sunk down, without any signs of life; and it was a considerable time before he could be recovered. He was then brought to the inner bar, and as he was languid, pale, and trembling, was indulged with a chair; but even then, it was not without assistance that he was kept up while arraigned. He forged four letters of attorney, but was tried only on one, empowering him to sell five thousand pounds, and for fraudulently selling five hundred pounds, part of that sum, to Thomas Brooksbank. His general appearance, and extreme distress, touched all present on the awful occasion with compassion.

The particulars of the trial consist chiefly of official proof of the forgery; in short, the unhappy man had himself acknowledged the forgery before the lord-mayor. When he heard the fatal verdict pronounced, he looked up to lord Mansfield, who presided, with a countenance which bespoke the bitterness of his heart, and with eyes overflowing with tears, implored the intercession of the court with his majesty to spare his life.

In answer to this lord Mansfield advised him not to flatter himself with hope of that mercy which there was no probability of being extended to him. His lordship farther said, "Considering your crime, and its consequences, in a nation where there is so much paper credit, I must indeed tell you, I think myself bound in duty and conscience to acquaint his majesty, that you are no object of his mercy." His lordship farther observed, "that all public companies should take warning, by the present instance, carefully to examine all letters of attorney, for the more effectual prevention of fraud."

After conviction as well as before, Mr. Rice gave every sign of the most sincere contrition. While under sentence of death, he made the most serious preparation for the important change that awaited him. He expected the

warrant for his execution some days before it arrived : and when it came the fatal news was concealed from him till his wife, who was then present, had retired.

It is recorded, to the credit of Mr. Rice, that before he quitted the kingdom, he sent for his tradesmen's bills, and discharged all those that were delivered.

Mr. Rice's friends petitioned that he might be allowed a coach to the place of execution ; but this favour was denied, and he was placed in a cart, and attended by a faithful friend, who was too generous to leave him till the last fatal moment.

At the place of execution he attended alone to prayers, where he expressed himself with ardour and fervency, suffering the pains of death with a placid hope of a happy immortality ; and, perhaps, no man ever expiated his crimes at the fatal tree, more universally lamented.

The mother of Mr. Rice was living at the time his misfortunes commenced ; and her friends, anxious to alleviate her distress, told her that her son was taken ill at Cambray : they then added, that his life was despaired of ; and at length said he was dead. The old lady lived at Stoke Newington ; and when, on the day after execution, the cryers of dying-speeches made their perambulations, the inhabitants of Newington, gave the poor people money not to cry the speeches near the house.

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### PAUL LEWIS,

*Executed at Tyburn, May 4, 1763, for Highway Robbery.*

THE history of this man displays a great variety of villainy ; and presents another sad instance of a pious clergyman, through a son's wickedness,

“ Bringing his grey hairs with sorrow to the grave.”

Paul Lewis was born at Horsemonseux, in Sussex, and was the son of a worthy clergyman at that place, who put

him to a grammar school at a very early age ; but such was his aversion to study, that he made not any reasonable degree of progress ; on which his father took him home, with an intention to have instructed him himself ; but, finding that he had no propensity to learning, he procured him, through the interest of Sir Cecil Bishop, a commission in the train of artillery.

Paul, though a dunce, had great ambition to become a fine gentleman, and in his spirited attempts to attain that character, he ran in debt with his tailor, to the amount of about one hundred and fifty pounds, which obliged him to run away and go to sea, where it appears, he had for some time behaved so well, that he was made first a cadet, then a midshipman, and finally, a lieutenant in the royal navy.

He was at the taking of Senegal, the burning of the ships in Cancalle-bay, the reduction of Cherburg, the battle of St. Cas, the siege of Guadaloupe, the engagement under Sir Edward Hawke, in all which services he behaved with courage and activity.

He had vices, however, not common to bravery, and very different from the irregular sallies of a high spirited and strong passion. Paul was not only wicked but base ; not only a robber but a scoundrel ; of which he gave many proofs. While on board the ship he collected three guineas a piece from many of his brother officers, to lay in stores for a West-India voyage, and then ran away with the collection from the ship, and commenced highwayman.

Having thus began his iniquitous course of life, he went to a public-house, in Southwark, staid great part of the day, and supped ; after which he went to an inn, hired a horse, and stopped a gentleman and his son in a post-chaise, and having robbed them, returned to the public-house, in Southwark.

Being apprehended for this offence, he was brought to trial at Kingston, when the people of the public-house swearing that he had not been absent from noon till midnight, more than half an hour, he was acquitted.

After this he committed a variety of robberies, and was twice in imminent danger of that fate which at length

overtook him, of which we shall now proceed to relate the particulars.

Lewis and an accomplice having robbed a gentleman and lady in a post-chaise, near Paddington, the robbers rode some miles together, and then agreed to part, and commit their depredations separately.

They had not long parted, when Lewis stopped a gentleman named Brown, and demanded his money. Mr. Brown resisted the highwayman with such determined resolution, that Lewis fired at him, but happily without effect.

At this juncture Mr. Brown's horse took fright, and threw him; but being little injured, he soon recovered, and saw Lewis in the custody of Mr. Pope, a constable, who had got him down, and was kneeling on his breast; a circumstance that arose from the following accident: as Mr. Pope was riding on the same road, a gentleman and lady told him they had been robbed by two highwaymen, and desired him to be cautious; but this induced him to ride on the faster, and he arrived at the critical spot in a short time after the robbery was committed, and seized Lewis.

Pope desired Mr. Brown to ride after the other highwayman who had been on the road; but at this instant Lewis arose, and presenting a pistol, swore he would shoot Pope. The latter, however, was in no degree intimidated, but knocking the pistol out of his hand, threw him down, and secured him in the manner above-mentioned: after which he tied his hands behind his back, and searching his pockets, found ten pistol-bullets in them.

The highwayman was conveyed to New Prison, and after having laid there one night, was taken before a magistrate, who committed him to Newgate.

At the ensuing sessions in the Old Bailey, he was brought to trial. The evidence against him was exceedingly strong. He attempted, however, to make a kind of defence; but it amounted to nothing and he received sentence of death.

Such was the baseness and unfeeling profligacy of this wretch, that when his almost heart-broken father visited him for the last time in Newgate, and put twelve guineas into his hands, to defray his expences, he slipped one of the pieces of gold into the cuff of his sleeve, by a dexterous slight, and then opening his hand, shewed the venerable and reverend old man, that there was but eleven; upon which he took from his pocket another, and gave it him, to make up the number he intended.

Having taken a last farewell of his parent, he turned round to his fellow-prisoners, and exultingly exclaimed, "I have flung the old fellow out of another guinea."

The ordinary of Newgate represented the behaviour of Lewis in a very unfavourable light; hinting, among other things, that he had threatened his life, declaring that he should never again have an opportunity of attending a criminal under sentence of death. The unhappy Rice, whose case is the subject of the preceding narrative, being one day in the chapel, with a view to receive the sacrament, Lewis demanded an admittance to the same solemn service; but being refused, unless he gave some proof of penitence, he said to the ordinary, "Whether I am fit or not, what is that to you! Damn you! I will beat you before I have done with you, unless you give it me. I am as good a Christian as you, you scoundrel."

In Newgate, he was allowed the title of Captain, by the other prisoners, and assumed all the villainy of Macbeth. He sat at the head of the table, sang obscene songs, and damned the parson (the ordinary.) He gave out that he would die like a man of honour, and that no hangman should put a halter round his neck, intimating that he would put an end to his own life.

This aggravated crime, however, he appears not to have had courage enough to commit; for after having concealed, or pretended to conceal, a knife in his pillow many days and nights, for that purpose, he suffered it to be found, by dropping it, as though by chance, in the chapel.

He procured a letter to be written in his name, (for he could not form one himself) to James Eyre, Esq. then

Recorder of London, where in a lofty style, he claimed descent from Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury, and relationship to many noble and ancient families; recapitulating his service in the navy, and imploring pardon of his majesty.

When the warrant for execution arrived he lost all his assumed courage, his vauntings sunk into trembling fears, and he became as abject, as he before appeared hardened. He uttered many penitent exclamations, and was admitted to the sacrament the morning of his execution.

Having arrived at Tyburn, he looked round him with a face of inexpressible anguish, and then addressed himself to the multitude in the following terms:

"This dreadful sight will not, I believe, invite any of you to come here, by following my example; but rather to be warned by me. I am but twenty-three years of age, a clergyman's son, bred up among gentlemen—this wounds me the deeper; for to whom much is given, of them more is required.


"My friends, I intreat you all to avoid such offences as may bring you here, on any account, especially for the sake of your families. Let the memory of my evil actions die with me, and do not reflect on my aged father. Hitherto I have been a disgrace to all that knew me: were I to begin my life again, I would live an honour to society."

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## COUNTRY RIOTS,

*Owing to the High Price of Provisions in the year 1766, with an account of the Execution of some of the Rioters.*

IN the year 1766, the country people rose in a tumultuous manner, in various parts of England. The cause of the dreadful outrages, was the high price of corn, and the following extract from the king's speech to both houses of parliament, will shew that there was some reason for discontent.

“ My Lords and Gentlemen, 

“ The high price of wheat, and the defective produce of that grain last harvest, together with the extraordinary demands for the same from foreign parts, have principally determined me to call you thus early together, that I might have the sense of parliament, as soon as conveniently might be, on a matter so important, and particularly affecting the poorer part of my subjects.

“ The urgency of the necessity called upon me, in the mean time, to exert my royal authority for the preservation of the public safety, against a public calamity which could admit of no delay.

“ I have before, by and with the advice of my privy council, laid an embargo on wheat and wheat flour going out of the kingdom, until the advice of my parliament could be taken thereon.

“ If further provision of law be requisite or expedient, with regard to the dearness of corn, so necessary for the sustenance of the poorer sorts, they cannot escape the wisdom of parliament, to which I recommend the due consideration thereof.

“ At the same time, I must with concern take notice, that notwithstanding my cares for the people, a spirit of the most daring insurrection has, in divers parts, broke forth in violence of the most criminal nature.

“ Necessary orders have been given for bringing such dangerous offenders to condign punishment and speedy justice; nor shall vigilance and vigour on my part be wanting to restore obedience and reverence to the law and the government.”

The principal of the riotous acts, committed on account of this scarcity of corn, we have carefully selected and for the convenience of our readers, we have arranged them in alphabetical order.

At *Aylesbury* the people rose, and seized a quantity of bread and butter in the market. The magistrates caused the ring-leaders to be seized. And they were tried, convicted, and imprisoned.

*Austle, St.* The tinnors rose, and compelled the butchers to lower their prices.

*Bath.* The mob rose, and did much mischief in the different markets before they dispersed.

*Barnstaple, (Devonshire.)* The poor joined in a body, and compelled the farmers to sell wheat at five shillings per bushel.

*Bewdley.* The mob lowered the price of wheat, meat, and butter.

*Beckingham, near Bath.* A miller and his son procured fire arms, and fired upon the people, killing a man and a boy, and desperately wounding others, which so exasperated the rest, that they set fire to the mills, and burnt them to the ground.

*Berwick-upon-Tweed.* The people were in commotion on account of the vast quantities of corn bought for exportation.

*Bradley, near Trowbridge.* A mill was destroyed by the populace, who divided the corn found therein among themselves.

*Birmingham.* A vast mob rose on the fair-day, and sold the bread and cheese at their own prices. An affray happened between them and the peace officers, and some of the ring-leaders were sent to gaol. The bakers, in order to appease the people, agreed to make a quantity of household bread at one penny per pound.

*Bradford, in Wiltshire.* The provision warehouses and shops were plundered ; one man concerned in this riot was hanged.

*Broomsgrrove, in Worcestershire.* They obliged the farmers to sell their wheat at five shillings per bushel, and the butchers their meat at twopence-halfpenny per pound.

*Colton, Great, in Warwickshire.* They rose, traversed the country, and did considerable damage, till, being met by the military, they were attacked and dispersed, and eight of them were killed.

*Coventry.* The mass of the people rose, and were joined by the colliers from the neighbouring coal-pits. They began their outrages by plundering the warehouses of cheese, and selling the same to the poor at low prices.

They then took whatever provisions they met with by main force.

*Dennington.* The mob rose, and first plundered a warehouse of cheese which was defended by eighteen men with arms; they were afterwards pursued by the owner, and a large party of his friends, but to no purpose; the mob defending themselves by throwing stones, and drove back their pursuers.

*Derby.* They rose in great numbers, attacked a party of light-horse, severely pelted them with stones, and wounded the commanding officer. They then plundered a warehouse of cheese; in doing which thirty-four of them were apprehended, pinioned, and carried to gaol. The remainder soon afterwards assembled, and attacked an armed boat, on the river Derwent, which they plundered of cheese to the value of three hundred pounds, and distributed it among the poor. They paid no regard to the magistrates, and were restrained alone by the military, from doing greater mischief.

*Exeter.* The people broke open a cheese warehouse, and sold it at a low price. They were intimidated from proceeding to further extremities by the military.

*Gloucester.* In order to appease the clamours of the poor, the most considerable farmers from the hills, agreed to supply the market with wheat at five shillings a bushel, and actually sold large quantities at that price.

*Hampton,* in Gloucestershire. They rose in considerable numbers, but were opposed by the military; yet not before they had pulled down some houses containing provisions, and some lives were lost.

*Honiton,* in Devonshire. They rose and seized sacks of wheat, lodged by the farmers in public-houses, brought them into the market, and sold it at five shillings and six-pence per bushel. They returned the sacks to the owners.

*Leicester.* The people seized three waggon loads of cheese, and divided it among themselves.

*Ludlow,* in Shropshire. The colliers from the Cleehill, near this town, assembled in a body, and pulled down the still-house in that town. They went in a very orderly,

manner, and returned without doing further mischief. The magistrates promised that the still should not be worked; but nothing could divert them from their determined purpose.

*Maidenhead*, in Berkshire. A number of bargemen entered this town, on account of the high price of provisions, and committed several outrages, in seizing provisions, &c. but were opposed by the civil power, and the ring-leaders seized and sent to Reading gaol—three of them were hanged.

*Malmsbury*. The people rose in great numbers, seized on all the corn they could find, and sold it at five shillings per bushel, but were honest enough to give the farmers the money.

*Marlow, Great*, in Buckinghamshire. A mob of bargemen rose, and extorted money from the gentlemen and farmers in that neighbourhood, with which they purchased spirituous liquors, and intoxicated themselves, and in that state were very mischievous.

*Nottingham*. A mob entered this town on the fair-day, seized upon all the cheese the factors had purchased, and distributed the same among the poor; leaving the farmers' cheese unmolested. Here the military were called into the aid of the magistrate, and a skirmish took place in which a farmer was killed.

*Newbury*, in Berkshire. A great mass of people assembled on the market-day, ripped open the sacks of wheat exposed for sale, and scattered the corn on the ground, seized the butter, meat, cheese, and bacon, in the shops, and threw it into the streets. They so intimidated the bakers, that they sold their bread at two-pence the peck loaf. From Newbury the mob proceeded to Shaw-Mill, where they threw the flour into the river, broke the windows of the house, and did other considerable damage there to the amount of near a thousand pounds. A poor man named Parker, one of the mob, was killed, leaving a wife and five small children; and another man had his arm broke.

*Ottery, St. Mary*, in Devonshire. The flour mills were destroyed by the mob.

*Pagenwell*, near Stroud, in Gloucestershire. The mob committed outrages, in order to lower the price of bread. Mr. Chandler, a shopkeeper, shot one of them dead, who was breaking into his house in the night; whereupon they set fire to his house, and burnt it to the ground. Mr. Chandler surrendered himself, was tried, and honourably acquitted—three hanged.

*Redruth*, in Cornwall. The tanners rose, and intimidated the butchers to reduce the price of their meat, and the farmers their wheat.

*Salisbury*, in Wiltshire. The risings of the people here were very numerous, and great mischief was apprehended; but by the prudent measures taken by the magistrates, and the farmers lowering the price of wheat, danger was happily averted. Some of the ringleaders were, however, apprehended and committed to prison—one hanged.

*Setbury*. The warehouses containing cheese and bacon were forcibly entered. The cheese was sold by the mob at three-pence, and the bacon at four-pence per pound.

*Sidbury*, in Devonshire. The mills of this place were destroyed by the mob.

*Stourbridge*, in Worcestershire. The people rose in great numbers, and compelled farmers, butchers, and dealers to lower the price of meat, wheat, butter, &c.

*Tipton*, in Devonshire. A number of poor people assembled, pulled down the flour mills, and did much other damage.

*Wallingford*. The people rose in one body, and regulated the prices of bread, cheese, butter, and bacon.

*Wincanton*, in Devonshire. The poor rose and did considerable damage, seizing the wheat and meat.

*Wolverhampton*, in Staffordshire. The people rose and compelled the farmers to sell wheat at five shillings per bushel, and butchers their meat at two-pence-half-penny per pound.

In various other parts of the kingdom did the poor thus riotously cry for bread, and seize provisions wherever they could be found; till parliament at length sought to

remedy the evil, and granted some temporary relief to the distress of the people.

The Special Commission issued by government, for the purpose of bringing the riotous poor to punishment, for offending the laws, in their cry for bread, were opened by the judges of the different superior courts of record, in the early part of the month of December, when numbers of misguided, half-starved wretches were condemned to death, and some of them actually executed.

At Reading several were tried, and sentenced to death, three of whom were hanged, viz. Daniel Ecland, William Simpson, and John Skelton.

At Salisbury four received sentence of death, one of whom was executed.

At Gloucester nine were condemned, and three executed: and at several other towns where the Special Commission was opened, numbers were condemned, some executed and others pardoned, whose names do not appear; nor indeed, can they be of any import to the reader; their offences being the same, and attended with nearly the same circumstances.

During these commotions numbers of threatening letters were received by wealthy farmers and contractors, and several advertisements appeared in the London Gazette, offering rewards for the discovery and conviction of the writers.

To give them all, would far exceed the limits of our plan, and we shall therefore deem the following sufficient, which was received by Mr. Rabley, of Birmingham:

“This is to acquaint the public, that there is a very large body of us at Kidderminster and Stourbridge, and, by G—d, we will go through the work now, or die. We have sworn one another in, and if any poor man will come to Stourbridge, and be sworn in, we will maintain him and his family too. We have a large body, already upwards of two thousand, sworn and ready armed. There shall be no hanging in the case now, we will have all the gaols and prisons down before us, as we have sworn, and be damned if we won’t. Mr. Rabley, we desire you to

put in the Birmingham Gazette, or you have a friend about your house if you do not gazette it, upon our word, we will have it down.

“ So no more, your’s,

“ Already armed at Stourbridge,

“ U. B——.”

## ELIZABETH BROWNRIGG,

*Executed at Tyburn, September 14, 1767, for Torturing her Female Apprentice to death.*

THE long and excruciating torture in which this inhuman woman kept the innocent object of her remorseless cruelty, before she finished the long-premeditated murder, more engaged the attention and roused the indignation of all ranks, than any criminal in the whole course of our melancholy narratives.

This cruel woman having passed the early part of her life in the service of private families, was married to James Brownrigg, a plumber, who, after being seven years in Greenwich, came to London, and took a house in Flower-de-luce court, Fleet-street, where he carried on a considerable share of business, and had a little house at Islington, for an occasional retreat.

She had been the mother of sixteen children, and having practised midwifery, was appointed, by the overseers of the poor of St. Dunstan’s parish, to take care of the poor women who were taken in labour in the workhouse; which duty she performed to the entire satisfaction of her employers.

Mary Mitchell, a poor girl, of the precinct of Whitefriars, was put apprentice to Mrs. Brownrigg in the year 1765; and about the same time Mary Jones, one of the children of the Foundling Hospital, was likewise placed with her in the same capacity; and she had other apprentices.

As Mrs. Brownrigg received pregnant women to lie-in privately, these girls were taken with a view of saving the expence of women servants. At first, the poor orphans

were treated with some degree of civility ; but this was soon changed for the most savage barbarity.

Having laid Mary Jones across two chairs in the kitchen, she whipped her with such wanton cruelty, that she was occasionally obliged to desist through mere weariness.

This treatment was frequently repeated ; and Mrs. Brownrigg used to throw water on her when she had done whipping her, and sometimes she would dip her head into a pail of water. The room appointed for the girl to sleep in adjoined to the passage leading to the street-door, and as she had received many wounds on her head, shoulders, and various parts of her body, she determined not to bear such treatment any longer, if she could effect her escape.

Observing that the key was left in the street-door when the family went to bed, she opened the door cautiously one morning, and escaped into the street.

Thus freed from her horrid confinement, she repeatedly enquired her way to the Foundling hospital, till she found it, and was admitted, after describing in what manner she had been treated, and shewing the bruises she had received.

The child having been examined by a surgeon, who found her wounds to be of a most alarming nature, the governors of the hospital ordered Mr. Plumbtree, their solicitor, to write to James Brownrigg, threatening a prosecution, if he did not give a proper reason for the severities exercised toward the child.

No notice of this having been taken, and the governors of the hospital thinking it imprudent to indict at common law, the girl was discharged, in consequence of an application to the chamberlain of London. The other girl, Mary Mitchell, continued with her mistress for the space of a year, during which she was treated with equal cruelty, and she also resolved to quit her service. Having escaped out of the house, she was met in the street by the younger son of Brownrigg, who forced her to return home, where her sufferings were greatly aggravated on account of her elopement. In the interim, the overseers of the precinct of White-friars bound Mary Clifford to Brown-

rigg; nor was it long before she experienced similar cruelties to those inflicted on the other poor girls, and possibly still more severe. She was frequently tied up naked, and beaten with a hearth broom, a horse-whip, or a cane, till she was absolutely speechless. This poor girl having a natural infirmity, the mistress would not permit her to lie in a bed, but placed her on a mat, in a coal-hole that was remarkably cold; however, after some time, a sack and a quantity of straw formed her bed, instead of the mat. During her confinement in this wretched situation, she had nothing to subsist on but bread and water; and her covering, during the night, consisted only of her own clothes, so that she sometimes lay almost perished with cold.

On a particular occasion, when she was almost starving with hunger, she broke open a cupboard in search of food, but found it empty; and on another occasion she broke down some boards, in order to procure a draught of water.

Though she was thus pressed for the humblest necessities of life, Mrs. Brownrigg determined to punish her with rigour for the means she had taken to supply herself with them. On this she caused the girl to strip to the skin, and during the course of a whole day, while she remained naked, she repeatedly beat her with the butt-end of a whip.

In the course of this most inhuman treatment, a jack chain was fixed round her neck, the end of which was fastened to the yard door, and then it was pulled as tight as possible, without strangling her.

A day being passed in the practice of these savage barbarities, the girl was remanded to the coal-hole at night, her hands being tied behind her, and the chain still remaining about her neck.

The husband having been obliged to find his wife's apprentices in wearing-apparel, they were repeatedly stripped naked, and kept so for whole days, if their garments happened to be torn.

The elder son had frequently the superintendence of these wretched girls; but this was sometimes committed

to the apprentice, who declared, that she was totally naked one night when he went to tie her up. The two poor girls were frequently so beaten, that their heads and shoulders appeared as one general sore; and when a plaister was applied to their wounds, the skin used to peel away with it.

Sometimes Mrs. Brownrigg, when resolved on uncommon severity, used to tie their hands with a cord, and draw them up to a water-pipe which ran across the ceiling in the kitchen; but that giving way, she desired her husband to fix a hook in the beam, through which a cord was drawn, and their arms being extended, she used to horsewhip them till she was weary, and till the blood followed at every stroke.

The elder son having one day directed Mary Clifford to put up a half-tester bedstead, the poor girl was unable to do it; on which he beat her till she could no longer support his severity; and at another time, when the mother had been whipping her in the kitchen till she was absolutely tired, the son renewed the savage treatment. Mrs. Brownrigg would sometimes seize the poor girl by the cheeks, and forcing the skin down violently with her fingers, caused the blood to gush from her eyes.

Mary Clifford, unable to bear these repeated severities, complained of her hard treatment to a French lady who lodged in the house; and she having represented the impropriety of such behaviour to Mrs. Brownrigg, the inhuman monster flew at the girl, and cut her tongue in two places with a pair of scissars.

On the morning of the 13th of July, this barbarous woman went into the kitchen, and after obliging Mary Clifford to strip to the skin, drew her up to the staple and, though her body was an entire sore, from former bruises, yet this wretch renewed her cruelties with her accustomed severity.

After whipping her till the blood streamed down her body, she let her down, and made her wash herself in a tub of cold water: Mary Mitchell, the other poor girl, being present during this transaction. While Clifford was washing herself, Mrs. Brownrigg struck her on the

shoulders, already sore with former bruises, with the butt-end of a whip; and she treated the child in this manner five times in the same day.

The poor girl's wounds now began to shew evident signs of mortification; her mother-in-law, who had resided some time in the country, came about this time to town, and enquired after her. Being informed that she was placed at Brownrigg's, she went thither, but was refused admittance by Mr. Brownrigg, who even threatened to carry her before the lord mayor, if she came there to make further disturbances. Hereupon, the mother-in-law was going away, when Mrs. Deacon, wife of Mr. Deacon, baker, at the adjoining house, called her in, and informed her, that she and her family had often heard moanings and groans issue from Brownrigg's house, and that she suspected the apprentices were treated with unwarrantable severity. This good woman likewise promised to exert herself to ascertain the truth.

At this juncture, Mr. Brownrigg going to Hampstead on business, bought a hog, which he sent home. The hog was put into a covered yard, having a sky-light, which it was thought necessary to remove, in order to give air to the animal.

As soon as it was known that the sky-light was removed, Mr. Deacon ordered his servants to watch, in order if possible, to discover the girls. Deacon's servant-maid looking from a window, saw one of the girls stooping down, on which she called her mistress, and she desired the attendance of some of the neighbours, who having been witnesses of the shocking scene, some men got upon the leads, and dropped bits of dirt, in order to induce the girl to speak to them; but she seemed wholly incapable. Hereupon, Mrs. Deacon sent to the girl's mother-in-law, who immediately called upon Mr. Grundy, one of the overseers of St. Dunstan's, and represented the case. Mr. Grundy and the rest of the overseers, with the women, went and demanded a sight of Mary Clifford; but Brownrigg, who had nick-named her Nan, told them that he knew no such person, but if they wanted to see Mary, (meaning Mary Mitchell,) they

might, and accordingly produced her. Upon this, Mr. Deacon's servant declared, that Mary Mitchell was not the girl they wanted. Mr. Grundy now sent for a constable, to search the house, but no discovery was then made.

Mr. Brownrigg threatened highly, but Mr. Grundy, with the spirit that became the officer of a parish, took Mary Mitchell with him to the workhouse, where, on the taking off her leathern boddice, it stuck so fast to her wounds, that she shrieked with the pain; but, on being treated with great humanity, and told that she should not be sent back to Brownrigg's, she gave an account of the horrid treatment that she and Mary Clifford had sustained, and confessed that she had met the latter on the stairs just before they came to the house. Hereupon, Mr. Grundy and some others returned to the house, to make a stricter search; on which Brownrigg sent for a lawyer, in order to intimidate them, and even threatened a prosecution, unless they immediately quitted the premises. Unterrified by these threats, Mr. Grundy sent for a coach, to carry Brownrigg to the Compter; on which the latter promised to produce the girl in about half an hour, if the coach was discharged. This being consented to, the girl was produced from a cupboard, under a beaufet in the dining-room, after a pair of shoes, which young Brownrigg had in his hand during the proposal, had been put upon her. It is not in language to describe the miserable appearance this poor girl made; almost her whole body was ulcerated.

Being taken to the workhouse, an apothecary was sent for, who pronounced her to be in danger.

Brownrigg was conveyed to Wood-street-compter; but his wife and son made their escape, taking with them a gold watch and some money. Mr. Brownrigg was now carried before alderman Crossby, who fully committed him, and ordered the girls to be taken to St. Bartholomew's hospital, where Mary Clifford died within a few days; and the coroner's inquest being summoned, found a verdict of Wilful Murder against James and Elizabeth Brownrigg, and John their son.

In the mean time, Mrs. Brownrigg and her son, shifted from place to place in London, bought clothes in Rag-fair, to disguise themselves, and then went to Wandsworth, where they took lodgings in the house of Mr. Dunbar, who kept a chandler's shop.

This chandler happening to read a newspaper on the 15th of August, saw an advertisement which so clearly described his lodgers, that he had no doubt but they were the murderers.

On this he went to London the next day, which was Sunday, and going to church, sent for Mr. Owen, the churchwarden, to attend him in the vestry, where he gave him such a description of the parties, that Mr. Owen desired Mr. Deacon and Mr. Wingrave, a constable, to go to Wandsworth, and make the necessary enquiry.

On their arrival at Dunbar's house, they found the wretched mother and son in a room by themselves, who evinced great agitation at this discovery. A coach being procured, they were conveyed to London, without any person in Wandsworth having knowledge of the affair, except Mr. and Mrs. Dunbar.

At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, the father, mother, and son, were indicted; when Elizabeth Brownrigg, after a trial of eleven hours, was found guilty of murder, and ordered for execution; but the man and his son, being acquitted of the higher charge, were detained, to take their trials for a misdemeanour, of which they were convicted, and imprisoned for the space of six months.

After sentence of death was passed on Mrs. Brownrigg, she was attended by a clergyman, to whom she confessed the enormity of her crime, and acknowledged the justice of the sentence by which she had been condemned. The parting between her and her husband and son, on the morning of her execution, was affecting beyond description. The son falling on his knees, she bent herself over and embraced him; while the husband was kneeling on the other side.

On her way to the fatal tree, the people expressed their abhorrence of her crime, in terms which, though not

proper at the moment, testified their detestation of her cruelty. Before her exit, she joined in prayers with the ordinary of Newgate, whom she desired to declare to the multitude, that she confessed her guilt, and acknowledged the justice of her sentence.

After execution, her body was put into a hackney-coach, conveyed to Surgeons'-hall, dissected, and anatomized : and her skeleton hung up in Surgeons'-hall.

## COMMOTIONS IN LONDON,

(COMMONLY CALLED WILKES'S RIOTS,)

*With a sketch of the various Offences, the Conviction, and Punishment of that Plebeian Idol.*

THE year '1768 will ever be remembered in the annals of the English history, on account of the murders and mischief committed by a deluded mob, stimulated by the writings of John Wilkes, Esq. an alderman of London, and member of parliament for Aylesbury.

The most scandalous and offensive of his writings, were in a periodical publication called "The North Briton," No. 45, and a pamphlet entitled "An Essay on Woman."

The North Briton was of a political nature ; the other a piece of obscenity ; the one, calculated to set the people against the government, the other to corrupt their morals.

Among the ministers who found themselves more personally attacked in the North Briton, was Samuel Martin, Esq. member for Camelford. This gentleman found his character, as secretary of the treasury, so vilified, that he challenged the writer to fight him.

Wilkes had already been engaged in a duel with Lord Talbot, and escaped unhurt ; but Mr. Martin shot him in the body, of which wound he laid in imminent danger, during several days, and was confined to his house for some weeks.

The attorney-general filed informations against Wilkes, as author of the *North Briton*, No. 45, and a pamphlet entitled "*An Essay on Woman*." On these charges he was apprehended, and committed prisoner to the Tower, but soon admitted to bail.

His papers were forcibly seized, for which he charged the secretaries of state with a robbery, and which was afterwards, by the court of King's Bench, determined to have been illegal.

Before his trial came on, Mr. Wilkes fled to France, under the pretext of restoring his health, which had suffered from his wound, and the harassing measures taken against him by the secretaries of state, lord Egremont and lord Halifax. No sooner was he out of the kingdom, than they proceeded to out-law him, dismissed him from his command as colonel of the Buckinghamshire militia, and expelled him from his seat in parliament.

But even a foreign land did not shelter him from the resentment of his fellow subjects. On the 15th of August, captain Forbes, in the British service, met Wilkes walking with lord Palmelston in Paris, and though he had never seen either of them, yet, from a drawing, he conceived one of them to be the man who had so much abused his native country, Scotland. Finding his conjecture right, he told Wilkes, that, as the author of the *North Briton*, he must fight him, and Mr. Wilkes referred him to his hotel; but when Mr. Forbes got an interview with him, which he stated to have been attended with much difficulty, he was answered that Mr. Wilkes would meet no man in combat, until he had fought lord Egremont, whom he could not challenge while he held his high official station under government.

The captain insisted to no purpose; and then calling him a scoundrel, threatened him with a caning, on their next meeting in the public streets.

Lord Egremont's death, which happened at this juncture, having released Wilkes from his pretended sanguinary determination against that nobleman, he wrote a challenge to captain Forbes, in a letter to his friend and

countrymen, Alexander Murray, Esq. who was also then in Paris. In this address he says, "You know every thing that passed between us, and the wild, extravagant wish he (captain Forbes) formed of fighting me, without pretence, or provocation. I am no prize-fighter, yet I told him I would indulge him as soon as I could. I mentioned to him the affair of lord Egremont, and a previous engagement I thought myself under. Lord Egremont, to my great regret, (greater I believe than of any other person) has prevented my proceeding farther, and as a Frenchman would say, "*Il m'a joué un vilain tour.*" I am now at captain Forbes's service, and shall wait his commands. I do not know where he is, for he has not appeared in Paris for some time. As your house has been his asylum, I am necessitated to beg you, Sir, to acquaint captain Forbes, that I will be at Menin, the first town in Austrian Flanders, on the confines of France, the 21st of this month, Sept. 1763, and that Monsieur Goy will do me the honour of accompanying me; but he only."

We find nothing of this meeting, the captain having gone to England.

In a few months Mr. Wilkes also returned to London, and gave notice, that he would, on a certain day, surrender himself on the informations filed against him. He then appeared in his place, as an alderman at Guildhall; and on his return, the mob took the horses from his carriage, and dragged it to his house, crying, "Wilkes and Liberty!"

On the 21st of February, 1764, the trial of Mr. Wilkes for the libels before-mentioned, came on before lord Mansfield, and he was found guilty of both.

More than two years were occupied in law proceedings, on the validity of his apprehension, the seizure of his papers, and the outlawry, the detail of which would afford little entertainment to our readers.

On the 27th of April, 1768, Mr. Wilkes was served with a writ of *Capias Utlogatum*, and he appeared before the court of King's Bench, in the custody of the proper officer. His counsel moved to admit him to bail, but it

was opposed by the counsel for the crown; who contended that no precedent could be produced of a person under a criminal conviction being admitted to bail, for, by such an indulgence it might be said, that a man who flies from justice, and is thereupon outlawed, would be in a better state than the man who submits to it; in the latter case, after conviction, he must remain in custody until sentence is passed; whereas, in the former case, he would be at large.

The court was convinced by this argument, and Mr. Wilkes was ordered to the King's Bench prison. In his way thither, the coach in which he was carried, was stopt by the mob, who took off the horses and dragged it, with him, through the city, to a public-house, in Spital-fields, where they permitted him to alight. From thence, about eleven at night he made his escape, and immediately proceeded towards the prison, where he surrendered himself.

The next day he was visited by many of his friends, and the prison was surrounded by a vast concourse of people, who, it was feared, would have offered some outrage; but all remained quiet until night, when they pulled up the rails which inclosed the footway, with which they made a bonfire, and obliged the inhabitants of the borough of Southwark, to illuminate their houses; nor would they disperse until the arrival of a captain's guard of soldiers.

From this time a mob constantly surrounded the King's Bench prison for several days. At length the justices appeared, followed by the military, the riot-act was read, and the mob not dispersing, the soldiers were ordered to fire upon them. Many were killed, and among them some passengers, at a considerable distance from the scene of confusion.

On the 28th the case of the outlawry was finally argued in the court of King's Bench; serjeant Glynn, on the part of Mr. Wilkes, greatly added to his reputation, as a sound lawyer, and was ably answered by the attorney-general; but the judges, though they somewhat differed in their reasons on the illegality of the outlawry, were unanimous in their opinion, that it should be reversed. This was a great point obtained by Mr. Wilkes, and

obnoxious as he was to government, the determination, consistent with law, was upright and honourable in the learned bench.

Mr. Wilkes was not, however, destined to clear himself by this single point gained, for the attorney-general immediately moved, that judgment might be passed upon him on his several convictions. The prisoner's counsel upon this, moved an arrest of judgment; and the court appointed the next Thursday to hear the arguments thereon. The general warrant on which Mr. Wilkes was apprehended, was also declared illegal.

These determinations will shew the reader, that however great a man's crimes, he must be proceeded against according to the strict letter of the law of the land. In this respect Mr. Wilkes was hardly dealt with, and he took especial care to promulgate those hardships to the people.

In his address to his constituents, the freeholders of Middlesex, he says,

"In the whole progress of ministerial vengeance against me for several years, I have shewn, to the conviction of all mankind, that my enemies have trampled on the laws, and have been actuated by the spirit of tyranny and arbitrary power.

"The *general warrant* under which I was first apprehended has been judged illegal. The *seizure* of my papers was condemned judicially. The *outlawry*, so long the topic of violent abuse, is, at last, declared to have been contrary to law; and on the ground first taken by my friend, Mr. Serjeant Glynn, is formally reversed."

On the day appointed for that purpose, the last effort was made to get rid of the remainder of the proceedings against Mr. Wilkes. The arguments for an arrest of judgment, though carried on with great ingenuity, would not hold, and he was found legally convicted of writing the libels. For that in *The True Briton*, he was fined 500*l.* and sentenced to two years imprisonment in the King's Bench prison; and for *The Essay on Woman*, 500*l.* more, a farther imprisonment of twelve months,

and to find security for his good behaviour for seven years.

Previous to his imprisonment, Mr. Wilkes was elected member of parliament for Middlesex, when the mob proceeded to various acts of outrage. They broke the windows of lord Bute, the prime minister, and of the mansion-house, even that of the lady mayoress's bed-chamber, forced the inhabitants of the metropolis to illuminate their houses, crying out, "Wilkes and Liberty!" and all who refused to echo it back, were knocked down.

A stone was thrown by this daring mob at the Polish count Rawotski, which he dexterously caught in his hand, the windows of his carriage in which he sat, being fortunately down. His lordship looking out and smiling, he received no other violence.

The outrages of the populace were too many to be enumerated; several innocent people were killed, and numbers wounded. They broke windows without number, destroyed furniture, and even insulted royalty itself.

Thus we find, that Wilkes was long the idol of the mob, but like all other such leaders, he fell into oblivion, and passed through the crowd with as little notice as any other man. He greatly wished to possess the chamberlainship of London, but the better class of citizens were too wary to trust him with their cash, and after a contested election for that lucrative place, alderman Hopkins was chosen.

The metropolis, as well as various other parts of the kingdom, had not been so convulsed with riots and partial insurrections since the civil wars, as during the short time of Wilkes's popularity.

These disgraceful tumults, and the lenity, or as some would have it, the timidity of government, spread disaffection into all classes of mechanics, who, thinking the time at hand, when they might exact what wages they pleased, and perhaps beyond their masters' profits, struck their work.

The *Watermen of the Thames* assembled in a body before the mansion-house, and complained to the lord-mayor of the low prices of their fares, when his lordship

advised them to draw up a petition to parliament, which he would himself present; upon which they gave him three cheers, and departed.

The *Spitalfields Weavers* proceeded to greater outrages. A great number of them forcibly entered the house of Mr. Nathaniel Farr, in Pratt's-alley, cut to pieces and destroyed the silk-work manufactory in two different looms. They forcibly entered the house of his relation, Mrs. Elizabeth Pratt, in the same alley, and murdered a lad of seventeen years of age, by shooting him through the head with a pistol loaded with slugs. A reward was offered for apprehending these rioters, and his Majesty's pardon offered to him who discovered the murderer.

The *Sawyers* assembled in large bodies, pulled down the saw-mill, lately erected at a great expence, on pretence that it deprived many workmen of employment. They also wanted more wages.

The *Hatters* at the same time struck, and demanded encreased wages: but we do not hear of any outrages being committed by them.

The *labouring Husbandmen* rose in several parts of England, in order to reduce the price of grain.

At Tenderton, in Kent, a paper was pasted on the church door, threatening the farmers, if they refused to sell their wheat at 10*l.* a load, and the millers, if they gave more; and exciting all the poor to assemble, and raise a mob, and those who refused were to have their right arms broke.

At Hastings in Sussex, the mob committed various outrages on the farmers in that neighbourhood, and threatened the life of a justice of the peace for attempting to commit one of them to prison.

The *Journeymen Coopers at Liverpool* also rose in a body, and in a cruel manner forced one of their masters on a pole, and carried him through the streets, pretending he had hurt their trade.

The *Subalterns of the Army and Marines* also petitioned, though not in a tumultuous manner, for an increase of pay which being granted, they assembled at the Globe

Tavern, in the Strand, and deputed lieutenant Carrol to wait upon the Marquis of Granby, and General Conway, to return them thanks for their support on that occasion.

The *Lieutenants of the Navy*, followed their example, and deputed one of their rank to return thanks to the honourable Captain Henry, for his unvarying perseverance in obtaining them the addition to their pay, of one shilling per day.

The *Sailors* also following the example of the landsmen, went in a body of many thousands, with drums beating and colours flying, to St. James's Palace, and presented a petition to the king, praying a "Relief of Grievances." Two days afterwards they assembled in much greater numbers, and proceeded as far as Palace-yard in order to petition parliament for an increase of wages; where they were addressed by two gentlemen standing on the top of a hackney-coach, who told them that their petition could not be immediately answered, but that it would be considered and answered in due time, whereupon the tars gave three cheers, and for a while dispersed. A short time, however, afterwards, they assembled at Limehouse, boarded several outward-bound ships, and forcibly carried away several of their crews, under pretence of not suffering ships to sail, until the seamen's wages were increased.

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### JAMES BOLLAND,

*Executed at Tyburn, March 18, 1772, for Forgery.*

THE annals of the British nation do not record a more determined course of profligacy and plunder than that which will be found in the life of James Bolland.

Jonathan Wild, commonly called the prince of thieves, can alone dispute his title to pre-eminence in villainy:—he robbed under the cloak of a thief-taker; and this man committed his depredations as a sheriff's officer. The one robbed the very thieves themselves; and the

other extorted from the unfortunate debtors their last shilling, till justice overtook him for committing forgery.

James Bolland was the son of a butcher, and was brought up to the same business. He gave early proofs of a profligate turn of mind, and constantly associated with worthless people of both sexes.

The term of his servitude being expired, Bolland opened a shop in the Borough of Southwark, and his business afforded him a very favourable prospect of success; but through his irregularity and extravagance his trade gradually declined, and to free himself from some embarrassments that his misconduct had produced, he sold his effects.

Bolland's favourite associates, for some years, had been bailiffs, bailiffs' followers, thief-takers, and runners to the different prisons; and the natural cruelty of his disposition being encouraged by the example of the worthless people in whose company he spent the greatest part of his time, he resolved to gain a maintenance by preying upon the distresses of his fellow-creatures.

Having procured himself to be appointed one of the officers to the sheriff of the county of Surrey, he hired a house at the bottom of Falcon-court, facing St. George's church, Southwark; and having fitted it up in the manner of a prison, it was soon inhabited by a number of unfortunate persons.

When the persons he arrested, were in indigent circumstances, he took them to gaol as soon as the law would permit; but those who were in a different situation, were entertained in his house, till all their money was spent, or they insisted upon going to prison, to avoid further imposition, or till the writs by which they were detained, became returnable.

The money he extorted from his guests, by divers stratagems, was so considerable, that he held the fees usually paid to lock-up houses as almost beneath his regard, and frequently distributed them among his followers and other servants.

Bolland was continually endeavouring to encourage card-playing in his house, and when his unfortunate guests had recourse to that diversion, for employing the tedious moments of confinement, he seldom failed to join in the game ; and though he suffered no opportunity of cheating them, even in the most palpable manner, to escape him, they were obliged to submit to the insult and imposition ; for if they ventured to expostulate on the unfairness of his proceedings, it was his custom to discharge a volley of blasphemous oaths, and to threaten that he would instantly take them to gaol, for daring to affront him in his own house.

Some of his prisoners, hoping their affairs would be speedily compromised, and others who were not so happy as to entertain such favourable expectations, wishing to remain as long as possible without the walls of a prison ; his insolence was submitted to by men, who, had not their spirits been depressed by the weight of misfortunes, would have disdained to be made the dupes of such atrocious and palpable villainy.

Though the emoluments arising from the infamous practices of Bolland were very considerable, they were not equal to the expences of his profligate course of life.

His wine-merchant, and many other persons having demands upon him that he was unable to discharge, he procured a person to sue out a commission of bankruptcy against him ; but before the commission took place, he secreted his most valuable effects ; and farther defrauded his creditors, by giving notes and other securities to a number of people who had received no valuable considerations from him ; and by means of these nominal creditors he obtained his certificate in a very short time.

Among a number of frauds committed while he lived in the Borough was the following: He went into Oxfordshire, and there purchased a string of horses. Having paid for them, he expressed a desire of having a mare, which the owner positively refused to sell ; however, the following morning Bolland took away the horses he had bought, and with them the mare, wholly unknown to the person whose property she was. The owner of the mare

intended to prosecute Bolland for the felony ; but he was dissuaded from that measure, and advised to draw a bill upon him for the value of the beast. Bolland accepted the bill, but he became a bankrupt before the time of payment arrived.

The infamous practices of Bolland had now rendered his character so notorious, that the attornies imagined that, if they continued to employ him, they should be reflected upon for encouraging so abandoned a villain ; and such repeated and heavy complaints were made against him, that his business rapidly declined ; but instead of endeavouring to obtain better success, by an amendment of his conduct, he seized every opportunity of practising extortion and fraud with greater rapacity, and became a still more abominable pest to society.

He resolved to move from Surrey into the county of Middlesex, where he expected more frequent opportunities would occur for gratifying his avaricious and oppressive disposition.

Notwithstanding the infamy that was justly annexed to the character of this accomplished villain, he procured persons to become his bondsmen, and made interest to be nominated one of the officers to the sheriff of the county of Middlesex.

He opened a spunging-house in the Savoy ; but it was some time before he had a prospect of success. He industriously sought every opportunity of joining in conversation with attornies, and by an artful insinuating conduct, at length ingratiated himself into the favour of several of that fraternity, who were not very remarkable either for discernment or integrity : and his business gradually increased.

Bolland was an almost daily frequenter of places where billiards and other games were practised ; and at one of these meetings he fell into company with a gentleman, who employed him to arrest the captain of a ship in the East-India service, for a debt of three hundred pounds, promising him a handsome compliment, on condition of his recovering the money, or taking the prisoner into custody. Bolland assured his employer, that he would

use his utmost endeavours to serve the writ the next day.

The following morning the gentleman set out for the country, and in the course of the day Bolland arrested the captain, who immediately paid the debt and costs.

In a short time the captain proceeded on his voyage; and the gentleman, at whose suit he had been arrested, coming to London soon afterwards, Bolland waited upon him, and said though he had made use of every stratagem he could possibly devise, the captain had eluded all his art, and got to sea; and in order to enhance the promised gratuity, he pretended, that his extraordinary vigilance to serve the writ had involved him in much trouble and some expence, for the truth of which he appealed to his followers, who readily supported all the falsities advanced by their wicked employer; and the gentleman, being thus deceived, made Bolland a handsome present.

Upon the return of the ship from the East-Indies, another writ was taken out; but Bolland being gone to a horse-race, it was given to another officer.

The bailiff went to Blackwall, and presently finding the captain, said he must either pay the three hundred pounds, or go with him to a place of security; but the captain shewing the officer Bolland's receipt for the money, he returned to town, and informed his employer that the debt was discharged to Bolland, previous to the captain's sailing for India.

A suit at law was now instituted against Bolland, for the recovery of three hundred pounds. Justice was so indisputably clear on the side of the plaintiff, that Bolland knew he must inevitably be cast, if the matter came to trial; yet, at a considerable expence, he protracted a judicial decision of the case, imagining his adversary would give up his claim, rather than pursue him through all the delays and chicanery of the law.

The cause at length was brought to a hearing, and judgment being pronounced in favour of the plaintiff, Bolland being surrendered by his bail, was taken in execution. He was conducted to a lock-up-house, where he remained some time, and then moved himself by

habeas corpus to the Fleet-prison, from which place he was released by virtue of an act of insolvency.

Bolland, and a person with whom he had contracted an acquaintance in the Fleet, were enlarged nearly at the same time; and the latter soon after went into business, and found means to procure bondsmen for his companion, who was again appointed an officer to the sheriff of Middlesex.

Bolland now hired a large house in Great Shire-lane near Temple-bar, but, that the outward appearance might not convey an intimation of the service and tyrannical treatment that was to be exercised within, the windows were not, according to the general custom at spunging-houses, secured with iron bars.

When prisoners came into the house, he informed them, that it was his custom to charge six shillings per day for board and lodging; adding, that the entertainment would be such as should give universal satisfaction, and that all trouble and disagreements concerning reckonings would be avoided; and such as refused to comply with his exorbitant terms were instantly conducted to gaol.

When Bolland's prisoners appeared inclinable to remove to the King's Bench or Fleet, he used every artifice he could suggest for detaining them in his house, till they had exhausted the means of supplying his extravagant avarice; but when their money was expended, no entreaties could prevail on the merciless villain to give them credit for the most trifling article, or to suffer them to continue another hour in his house.

His common excuse for his rapacious and brutal conduct was, that he incurred very considerable expence by supporting a house for accommodating gentlemen, and such as wished to be treated consistently with that character, must pay accordingly.

Notwithstanding the public infamy of Bolland's character, he transacted perhaps more than double the business of any man in the same profession.

Not satisfied with the great emoluments he derived from cruelly oppressing his unhappy prisoners, he had recourse to practices which, though not less injurious in

themselves were more calculated to bring him under the censure of the law.

He defrauded a great number of tradesmen of property to a considerable amount ; and among them was an upholsterer, of whom he obtained household furniture to the value of 200*l.* under false pretences.

Though Bolland was a married man, he was violently addicted to the company of abandoned women ; and when his wife expostulated on the impropriety of his illicit connections, he applied to her the most disgraceful epithets, accompanied with volleys of profane oaths, and frequently beat her in a barbarous manner.

His conversation proved the vulgarity of his breeding, and his whole behaviour marked him as a worthless and detestable character.

These disqualifying circumstances, however, proved no impediment to his being received on terms of familiarity by several women who were in the keeping of persons of distinction. But this will be no longer surprising, when it is considered that money is ever a sufficient recommendation to the favour of that abandoned part of the sex who subsist on the wages of prostitution.

Bolland frequently took debtors into custody who had sought shelter within the verge of the Board of Green Cloth : and for an offence of this kind he was once called before the board, and ordered to pay the sum for which he had illegally detained the complaining party.

Bolland was connected with two men of infamous characters ; one of whom was chiefly employed in discovering persons on whom the arts of villainy might be practised with the most success ; and the other was an attorney, by whose assistance Bolland was frequently relieved from embarrassments, and enabled to execute his villainous projects, in such a manner as to evade the punishment of the law.

Bolland, and his two associates above-mentioned, got possession of a bill for thirty pounds, that had been stolen out of a gentleman's pocket. The bill was presented for payment, which was refused, the party on whom it was drawn alledging that it had been stolen. Hereupon the

attorney wrote to the gentleman, that an arrest would follow, unless the bill was immediately discharged. The answer signified that if an arrest was resolved upon, the writ might be left with an attorney in Chancery-lane, who would put in bail.

Mortified and disappointed by the spirited repulse they had received, and despairing of obtaining cash for the bill by means of threats, they determined to arrest the gentleman, and take him to Bolland's house, where they supposed they could scarcely fail of extorting some money from him.

A messenger was dispatched to desire the gentleman's company at the King's-head tavern, in Bridges-street. He attended according to the appointment, and was arrested by Bolland ; who, pretending to be desirous of acting with all possible lenity, told the gentleman that he would waive his power of taking him to a place of confinement, lest his reputation should be injured, on condition that he would give him proper security. Hereupon the gentleman deposited thirty pounds in Bolland's hands : but the note was still detained, with a view of gaining further advantage.

The gentleman communicated all the circumstances that had come to his knowledge, to his attorney, who moved the court of King's Bench for a rule.

Bolland and his accomplices, however, determined still to contest the matter, though they were conscious that the cause must certainly be decided in favour of their adversary.

When prisoners came into Bolland's house, he immediately employed his followers to make particular enquiries into the state of their pecuniary affairs, and the extent of their connections ; and, according to the information he received, he suggested plans for deceiving his unhappy guests.

A young gentleman whose imprudences had drawn upon him the displeasure of his friends, was arrested at the suit of his taylor, and confined in Bolland's house.

His money being soon expended, and despairing of being able to effect a compromise with his creditor, he

expressed a desire of being moved to the King's Bench or the Fleet.

Bolland informed him that he must be taken to Newgate, that being the gaol for the county; and that he could not be moved to either of the other prisons but by means of a writ of habeas corpus.

The young gentleman was greatly alarmed at the idea of being confined in Newgate, which he supposed to be a place for the reception only of felons.

Bolland, perceiving his anxiety, advised him to recall his resolution, saying, that if he would follow his directions, a method might still be adopted for relieving him from all his difficulties. Anxious to recover his liberty, the youth said, if Bolland would signify the means by which so desirable a purpose was to be obtained, he would gladly embrace the proposal, and ever consider him as his most generous benefactor.

Hereupon Bolland informed him, that he would immediately procure bail, and then recommended him to different tradesmen of whom he might obtain a chariot and horses, household furniture, and other effects, on credit; adding, that he would find no difficulty in obtaining a fortune by marriage, before he would be called upon for the discharge of his debts.

The young man being released on the bail of two of Bolland's accomplices, a chariot was procured, and a house hired and furnished very elegantly; and one of Bolland's followers assumed the character of a footman, from the double motive of assisting in the scheme of villainy, and reporting to his principal all the particulars of the conduct of the imprudent young man.

Reports were industriously propagated that the youth was heir to an immense fortune; and, by a variety of stratagems, effects to a considerable amount were obtained from different tradesmen, greater part of which were deposited in Bolland's house, by way of security to him for the bail he had procured.

Payment for the furniture and other effects being demanded, the creditors were for some time amused by a variety of plausible pretences; but at length they became

exceedingly importunate for their money ; and Bolland, now concluding that the young man could no longer be made subservient to his villainous stratagems, surrendered him in discharge of his bail, and caused him to be conveyed to Newgate.

The persons whom he had been seduced to defraud were no sooner acquainted with the imprisonment of the young adventurer, than they lodged detainers against him.

His unfortunate connections having greatly exasperated his relations and friends, they refused to afford him any kind of assistance, and his situation became truly deplorable.

His present distress, and the upbraidings of conscience for the impropriety of his conduct, overwhelmed him with affliction, which soon put a period to his life.

Bolland without regarding the ruin he had occasioned, went on in his course of wickedness. He provided Jew, or fictitious bail, for persons who were under arrest ! and when he knew that the persons whom he himself arrested, were not in desperate circumstances, he frequently released them, after exacting money from them, and the promise to surrender if they could not compromise matters with their creditors. He applied to these people to become bail for others, who paid him in proportion to the sums for which they were arrested ; and, circumstanced as they were, it was seldom that he met a refusal ; for, upon their making the least hesitation, he threatened to take them into custody, and convey them instantly to prison.

He provided genteel apparel for Jews, and other men in desperate circumstances, and encouraged them to commit perjury, by bribing them to swear themselves house-keepers and men of property, in order that their bail might be admitted.

Having supplied two men of most profligate characters, with genteel clothes, they attended him to Westminster-hall, and there justified bail for sums to a considerable amount, though they were not possessed of property to the value of twenty shillings.

After the business, these three infamous associates adjourned to a tavern in Covent-garden; and, while they were regaling themselves, some of Sir John Fielding's officers took the two men who had justified bail, into custody, on a charge of highway-robbery.

They were convicted at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey; and soon afterwards, Bolland, being a sheriff's officer, attended them to Tyburn, where they were hanged in the very apparel that he himself had provided for them.

A publican in Cecil-street in the Strand, named Wilkinson, went into Lancashire, in the year 1768, upon a visit to his relations, leaving the care of his house to a female servant. Upon the landlord's return, he found, that two men had taken possession of his household goods and stock of liquors, under a warrant of distress. He asked by what authority they had made a seizure of his effects; and the reply was, that if he presumed to dispute their authority, they would knock out his brains, or put him to death in some other manner.

Wilkinson made application to Justice Kynaston, and made an affidavit that Bolland had no legal claim upon him. A warrant was granted for the recovery of Wilkinson's goods, but before it could be put into execution, the greatest part of them had been moved from the premises.

The following day Bolland caused Wilkinson to be arrested for five hundred and fifty pounds, which was falsely alledged to be a debt he had some time before contracted. The unfortunate Wilkinson, being unable to procure bail for so considerable a sum, moved himself to the King's Bench.

The attorney employed by Wilkinson was an accomplice of Bolland's; and, under the pretence of defending him against the machinations of that accomplished villain, he extorted from him his last shilling; and after the unhappy man had suffered a long imprisonment, in a most deplorable state of poverty, he was restored to liberty by virtue of an act of insolvency.

In the preceding part of this narrative, we have men-

tioned that Bolland formed a connection with a fellow-prisoner in the Fleet, through whose interest bondsmen were procured, when he a second time commenced officer to the sheriff of Middlesex. Learning some time after, that this man had apartments elegantly furnished in the neighbourhood of Gray's-Inn, he falsely swore a debt against him; and, in conjunction with one of his accomplices, who was a lawyer, sued out judgment, and obtained a warrant of distress for the seizure of his effects, which were conveyed to Bolland's house.

The injured party applied to the court of King's Bench for redress; and attachments were issued against the delinquents; but before they could take effect, the attorney had absconded, and Bolland was in custody, charged with the capital offence for which he suffered; and therefore no redress was to be obtained.

A captain in the navy going a voyage, and not leaving his wife sufficiently provided with money, she contracted a debt to the amount of thirty pounds, for which she gave a note. The note not being paid when it became due, the creditor ordered Bolland to serve a writ upon the unhappy woman. After she had remained some days a prisoner in his house, he procured bail for her, on her paying him five guineas.

In a few days she was again taken into custody, Bolland urging, that upon making inquiry into her affairs, the bail deemed themselves not secure, and had surrendered her from motives of prudence.

Terrified at the idea of going to prison, she paid him ten guineas for procuring bail a second time; but he insisted on having a bond to confess judgment for the furniture of her house, as a collateral security. Being ignorant of the nature of the security proposed, she complied with the terms offered by the villain, who on the following day, entered upon judgment, and took possession of her effects.

Upon discovering that she had been made a dupe to the consummate art and villainy of Bolland, the unfortunate woman was driven almost to distraction, and while

in that state of mind, she attempted to set fire to the house, in consequence of which a warrant was granted for apprehending her, and she was accordingly committed to Newgate.

In a short time the husband returned to England, and Bolland bribed an infamous woman to swear a false debt against him, in consequence of which he was arrested, and being in confinement at the time of his wife's trial at the Old Bailey, she was deprived of that assistance he might have afforded her. She was convicted, and sentenced to suffer death ; but her cause being espoused by a number of humane persons, they drew up an authentic state of her case, which was presented to the king, who was graciously pleased to grant her an unconditional pardon.

Bolland formed a connection with a prostitute, towards whom a sailor, then abroad, entertained a strong attachment. Upon the sailor's return, he gave three hundred pounds into the care of the woman, proposing at the same time to espouse her, and saying he meant to take a public-house in Wapping. The woman communicated the sailor's proposal to Bolland, and they formed a plan of defrauding him of his money.

By Bolland's direction she intimated to him, that three hundred pounds was not a sum sufficient to carry on the trade of a publican with a prospect of success, and advised him to leave the money he had already acquired to her care, and make another voyage. The unsuspecting seaman complied, and in a short time after he had sailed, Bolland got the three hundred pounds into his possession, and applied it to his own use.

Bolland's behaviour to the woman was for some time exceedingly kind ; but he at length procured a fellow to charge her with a false debt ; and being taken to prison, she survived only a short time, during which she laboured under the severest afflictions of poverty and disease.

The sailor, having completed his voyage, no sooner landed in England, than he hastened to the house where his mistress had resided ; and having learnt the parti-

culars of her conduct, vexation and disappointment had such an effect upon his mind, that the recovery of his reason was, for a long time judged to be doubtful.

Bolland being ordered, by an attorney in the city, to serve a writ on a colonel in his Majesty's service for one hundred pounds, he arrested the gentleman the next day, and was paid the debt and costs ; but instead of delivering the money for the plaintiff's use, he declared that he had never served the writ. The attorney, however, soon learning that the debt was discharged, commenced a suit against the sheriffs ; and the persons who had become sureties for Bolland were compelled to pay the hundred pounds, with full costs.

The colonel had neglected to take Bolland's receipt ; and of this circumstance the villain determined to avail himself. He, a second time, arrested the gentleman for a hundred pounds ; the action was bailed, and a trial ensued, in the course of which a witness swore, that he was present when the colonel paid Bolland an hundred pounds, and costs, in discharge of the writ. Hereupon the jury pronounced in favour of the colonel.

Though Bolland's character was notorious throughout the kingdom, he might, perhaps, have continued his depredations much longer, had not his infamous practices been exposed in the newspapers by the person whom we have already mentioned his being acquainted with in the Fleet, and whose effects he seized in the neighbourhood of Grays-Inn, under a warrant of distress, obtained by swearing to a false debt.

When the sheriffs were informed of Bolland's villainy, they were highly exasperated against him, and suspended him from acting as their officer, and assigned the bail-bonds as security, by which the parties he had injured might obtain some recompence.

Bolland's avarice was so excessive, and his inclination to villainy so strong, that his being deprived of the power of following his usual practices was the source of much uneasiness to him. He was advised to act under the Marshalsea court ; but he rejected the proposal, alledg-

ing that a compliance would *degrade* his character, after having long moved in so superior a line of life.

The office of upper city-marshal becoming vacant by the decease of Osmund Cook, Esq. Bolland determined to dispose of part of his infamously-acquired property, in the purchase thereof.

The place being put up for sale by auction, he became the purchaser for two thousand four hundred pounds. Having paid the deposit money, which was lodged in the chamberlain's office, he anxiously waited for the approbation of the court of aldermen, which was only wanting to give him that power over the citizens which he was predetermined to abuse.

A letter was addressed to the lord-mayor and court of aldermen, exhibiting Bolland's character in all its horrid deformity ; and proper enquiries being made, the facts appeared to be well founded ; in consequence of which the court of aldermen refused him the place, and ordered the chamberlain to return the deposit-money. When the recorder communicated to him the very strong reasons that had induced the court to deem him unqualified for the place of city-marshal ; he behaved in a manner extremely reprehensible. He declared that he would commence a suit at law against the court of aldermen for the recovery of damages ; but finding a contest with the city not liking to produce him any advantage ; and one of the serjeants at mace at that time resigning his office, he formed the resolution of purchasing his place, which was denied him, though he offered a sum considerably above the usual price.

The deposit-money still remained in the chamberlain's office, under an attachment taken out by his sureties, on account of their bail-bonds being assigned over for the benefit of the persons who had suffered through his iniquitous proceedings.

A man named Jesson had discounted a note for Bolland ; some time after which they met at the George and Vulture tavern, in Cornhill, when the former desired the note might be redeemed. The other said, he then

happened to be short of cash, but produced a note of hand for one hundred pounds, given by Mr. Bradshaw, offering to take up the other note, if Jesson would take Bradshaw's security, and return the overplus. To this Jesson agreed, and while he was counting the money, Bolland endorsed the note; which being observed by the other, he said he had no doubt as to the responsibility of Bradshaw, but that Bolland's name would render the note unnegotiable. Hereupon Bolland took a knife, and erased all the letters of his surname, excepting the first, and in their room inserted *anks*; after which he delivered the note to Jesson.

On the following day Jesson requested a person named Cardineaux, to discount the note he had received from Bolland; and Cardineaux paid him fifteen pounds ten shillings on account, desiring him to call the next day for the balance.

The next Saturday, Cardineaux, Jesson, and Bolland, met at a tavern in Queen-street; when Cardineaux questioning Bolland respecting *Banks*, the name indorsed upon the note; he said Banks was a victualler, in the neighbourhood of Rathbone-place, in an extensive and reputable way of business. Cardineaux saying he was fully satisfied, paid Jesson the balance in his favour, in some small notes, and a draft upon his banker.

Cardineaux, having occasion for cash, carried the note to his banker, who discounted it; and soon after Bradshaw was declared a bankrupt.

Cardineaux now applied to Jesson, desiring that, as Bradshaw had failed, he would provide money to take up the note when it became due: Jesson had recourse to Bolland; but he refused to take up the note, and even denied that Jesson had received it of him.

Cardineaux, Jesson, and Bolland, met at the Edinburgh coffee-house the next day, when the former introduced a conversation respecting Bradshaw's note; in the course of which Bolland said, that his endorsement did not appear upon the note, and that it had not passed through his hands. Upon this, Cardineaux said, Jesson had mentioned his having altered the endorsement from Bolland

to Banks ; and Bolland then desired all disputes might subside, and promised that the note should be discharged when it became due.

The note was delivered to a person named Morris, who shewed it to a gentleman of the law, and related to him the particulars of Bolland's conduct ; in consequence of which a prosecution was resolved on.

Bolland being apprehended, a man was sent, in the name of Banks, to carry the money to Cardineaux, who gave a receipt for it, telling him that the note he had to redeem was in the possession of Morris, and would be detained in order to be produced at the Old Bailey as evidence against Bolland.

The prisoner being brought to trial, his counsel exerted their utmost abilities to prove that he had not committed forgery ; but the jury found him guilty of the indictment. When sentence of death had been pronounced against him, the recorder pathetically exhorted him to employ the short time he had to live in preparing for eternity, and not to deceive himself in the expectation of a pardon, which there was not the slightest reason to suppose would be granted.

He on the morning of his execution acknowledged that he had been guilty of innumerable sins, but declared that the fact for which he was to die, was not committed with a view to defraud.

The body of this malefactor was taken to Highgate in a hearse, and in the evening carried to an undertaker's in Prince's-street, Drury-Lane, whence it was conveyed to Bunhill-fields for interment.

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## JOHN RANN,

(COMMONLY CALLED SIXTEEN-STRING JACK,)

*Executed at Tyburn, November 30, 1774, for Highway robbery.*

JOHN RANN was born at a village a few miles from Bath, of honest parents, who were in low circumstances,

and incapable of giving him any kind of education. For some time he obtained a livelihood by vending goods, which he drove round the city and adjacent country on an ass.

A lady of distinction, who happened to be at Bath, took Rann into her service when he was about twelve years of age; and his behaviour was such, that he became the favourite of his mistress and fellow-servants.

At length he came to London, and got employment as a helper in the stables at Brooke's mews; in which station he bore a good character. He then became the driver of a post-chaise, after which he was servant to an officer, and in both these stations he was well spoken of.

About four years before his execution, he was coachman to a gentleman of fortune near Portman-square; and it was at this period that he dressed in the manner which gave rise to the appellation of Sixteen-string Jack, by wearing breeches with eight strings at each knee.

After living in the service of several noblemen, he lost his character, and turned pick-pocket, in company with three fellows, named Jones, Clayton, and Colledge, the latter of whom (a mere boy) obtained the name of *Eight-string Jack*.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey in April, 1774, Rann, Clayton, and one Shepherd, were tried for robbing Mr. William Somers on the highway, and acquitted for want of evidence. They were again tried for robbing Mr. Langford, but acquitted for the same reason.

For some time past, Rann had kept company with a young woman named Roche, who, having been apprenticed to a milliner, and being seduced by an officer of the guards, was reduced to obtain bread by the casual wages of prostitution; and, at length associating with highwaymen, received such valuable effects as they took on the road.

On the 30th of May, Rann was taken into custody, and being brought to Bow-street on the following Wednesday, was charged with robbing John Devall, Esq.

near the nine mile stone on the Hounslow-road, of his watch and money. This watch he had given to Miss Roche, who had delivered it to Catherine Smith, who offered it in pledge to Mr. Hallam, a pawn-broker, who, suspecting that it was not honestly obtained, caused all the parties to be taken into custody.

Miss Roche was now charged with receiving the watch, knowing it to have been stolen ; and Miss Smith being sworn, deposed, that on the day Mr. Devall was robbed, Roche told her that " she expected Rann to bring her some money in the evening : " that he accordingly came about ten at night, and having retired some time with Miss Roche, she, on her return, owned that she had received a watch and five guineas from him, which he said he had taken from a gentleman on the highway ; that she, Miss Smith, carried the watch to pawn to Mr. Hallam, at the request of Miss Roche.

Sir John Fielding asked Rann if he would offer any thing in his defence ; on which the latter said, " I know no more of the matter than you do, nor half so much neither." On this occasion Rann was dressed in a manner above his stile of life and his circumstances. He had a bundle of flowers in the breast of his coat, almost as large as a broom ; and his irons were tied up with a number of blue ribbons.

For this offence Rann was tried at the sessions held at the Old Bailey in July, 1774, and acquitted.

Two or three days after this acquittal, Rann engaged to sup with a girl at her lodgings in Bow-street ; but not being punctual to his appointment, the girl went to bed, and Rann, not being able to obtain admittance at the door, attempted to get in at the window on the first floor, and had nearly accomplished his purpose, when he was taken into custody by the watchman.

For this burglarious attempt he was examined at Bow-street on the 27th of July, when the girl, whose apartments he had attempted to break open, declared that he could not have had any felonious intention, as he knew that he would have been a welcome guest, and have been readily admitted, if she had not fallen asleep. On this

he was dismissed, after Sir John Fielding had cautioned him to leave his dangerous profession, and seek for some more honest means of support.

On the Sunday following, Rann appeared at Bagnigge wells, dressed in a scarlet coat, tambour waistcoat, white silk stockings, laced hat, &c. and publicly declared himself to be a highwayman. Having drank pretty freely, he became extremely quarrelsome, and several scuffles ensued, in one of which he lost a ring from his finger, and when he discovered his loss, he said it was but an hundred guineas gone, which one evening's *work* would replace. He became at length so troublesome, that part of the company agreed to turn him out of the house; but they met with so obstinate a resistance, that they were obliged to give up their design; when a number of young fellows, possessed of more spirit than discretion, attacked this magnanimous hero, and actually forced him through the window into the road. Rann was not much injured by this severe treatment; but he complained bitterly against those who could so affront a *gentleman* of his character.

Rann being arrested for a debt of 50*l.* which he was unable to pay, was confined in the Marshalsea prison, where he was visited by a number of men and women of bad character, some of whom paid his debt, and procured his discharge.

At another time, Rann being with two companions at an alehouse in Tottenham-court-road, two sheriff's officers arrested Rann, who, not having money to pay the debt, deposited his watch in the hands of the bailiffs, and his associates advanced three guineas, which together made more than the amount of the debt; and as a balance was to be returned to Rann when the watch should be redeemed, he told the bailiffs that, if they would lend him five shillings, he would treat them with a crown bowl of punch. This they readily did; and, while they were drinking, Rann said to the officers, "You have not treated me like a gentleman. When Sir John Fielding's people come after me, they use me genteely; they only hold up

a finger, beckon me, and I follow them as quietly as a lamb."

When the bailiffs were gone, Rann and his companions rode off; but our hero, soon returning, stopped at the turnpike, and asked if he had been wanted. "No," (said the tollman.) "Why, (replied the other) "I am Sixteen-string Jack, the famous highwayman——have any of Sir John Fielding's people been this way?"—"Yes," said the man, "some of them are but just gone through." Rann replied, "If you see them again, tell them I am gone towards London;" and then rode off with the utmost unconcern.

Soon afterwards Rann appeared at Barnet races, dressed in a most elegant sporting stile, his waistcoat being blue satin trimmed with silver; and he was followed by hundreds of people, who were eager to gratify their curiosity by the sight of a man who had been so much the subject of public conversation.

A very short time before Rann was capitally convicted, he attended a public execution at Tyburn, and getting within the ring formed by the constables round the gallows, desired that he might be permitted to stand there, "for (said he) perhaps it is very proper that I should be a spectator on this occasion."

On the 26th of September, 1774, Rann and William Collier went on the Uxbridge road, with a view to commit robberies on the highway; and on the Wednesday following they were examined at the public office in Bow-street, when Dr. William Bell, chaplain to the princess Amelia, deposed, that between three and four o'clock in the afternoon of Monday the 26th of September, as he was riding near Ealing, he observed two men, rather of a mean appearance, who rode past him; and that he remarked they had suspicious looks; yet neither at that time, nor for some little time afterwards, had he any idea of being robbed; that soon afterwards one of them, which he believed was Rann, crossed the head of his horse, and demanding his money, said, "Give it me, and take no notice, or I'll blow your brains out." On this the doctor gave him one shilling and six-pence, which was all the

silver he had, and likewise a common watch in a tortoise-shell case.

On the evening of the day on which the robbery was committed, Eleanor Roche (who was kept by Rann) and her maid-servant carried a watch to pledge with Mr. Cordy, pawnbroker in Oxford-road, who, suspecting that it had not been honestly acquired, stopped it, and applied to Mr. Grignon, watch-maker in Russel-street, Covent-Garden, who had made the watch for Dr. Bell.

Mr. Clarke swore, that, on going to Miss Roche's lodgings on the Monday night, he found two pair of boots wet and dirty, which had evidently been worn that day : and Mr. Haliburton swore, that he waited at Miss Roche's lodgings till Rann and Collier came thither ; in consequence of which they were taken into custody.

On the 5th of October, John Rann, William Collier, Eleanor Roche, and Christian Stewart, (servant to Roche,) were brought to Bow-street ; when Dr. Bell deposed in substance as he had done the preceding week : and William Hills (servant to the princess Amelia) swore, that he saw Rann (whom he well knew) ascend the hill at Acton about twenty minutes before the robbery was committed ; a circumstance which perfectly agreed with Dr. Bell's account of the time that he was robbed.

Hereupon John Rann and William Collier were committed to Newgate, to take their trials for the highway robbery ; Miss Roche was sent to Clerkenwell-bridewell, and Christian Stewart (her servant) to Tothill-fields bridewell, to be tried as accessaries after the fact.

The evidence given on this trial was, in substance, the same as that which had been given at Bow-street ; but some favourable circumstances appearing in behalf of Collier, he was recommended to mercy, and afterwards respited during the king's pleasure. Miss Roche was sentenced to be transported for fourteen years : her servant was acquitted ; and Rann was left for execution.

When Rann was brought down to take his trial, he was dressed in a new suit of pea-green clothes, his hat was bound round with silver strings ; he wore a ruffled shirt, and his behaviour evidenced the utmost unconcern.

Rann was so confident of being acquitted, that he had ordered a genteel supper to be provided for the entertainment of his particular friends and associates on the joyful acquittal : but their intended mirth was turned into mourning ; and the madness of guilty joy to the sullen melancholy of equally guilty grief.

When Rann received his sentence, he attempted to force a smile ; but it was evident that his mind was racked with pains that no language can express.

After conviction the behaviour of this malefactor was, for some time, very improper for one in his unhappy circumstances. On Sunday the 23rd of October, he had seven girls to dine with him. The company were remarkably cheerful ; nor was Rann less joyous than his companions.

His conduct was expressive of great unconcern till the time that the warrant for his execution arrived ; after which he began to be somewhat serious in his preparation for a future state.

On the morning of execution he received the sacrament in the chapel of the prison, and at the fatal tree behaved with great decency ; but did not appear so much affected by his approaching fate as some printed accounts have represented him. When he came near the fatal tree, he turned round and looked at it as an object which he had long expected to see ; but not as on one that he dreaded, as might reasonably have been expected.

After the customary devotions, he was turned off, and having hung the usual time, his body was delivered to his friends for interment.

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### DR. WILLIAM DODD,

*Doctor of Divinity, Prebendary of Brecon, Chaplain in Ordinary to his Majesty, and Minister to the Magdalen Hospital ;*

*Executed at Tyburn, June 27, 1777, for Forgery.*

THE subject of the following melancholy narrative stood high in the estimation of the public as a divine, a popular preacher, and an elegant scholar. He was the promoter

of many public charities, and of some he may be said to have been the institutor. The Magdalen for reclaiming young women who have swerved from the path of virtue ; the Society for the relief of Poor Debtors, and that of the Humane Society, for the recovery of persons apparently drowned, owe their institution to Dr. Dodd. He was patronized by the King, and more immediately by Lord Chesterfield, and his church preferments were lucrative : but his expenses out-ran his income, which induced him to commit a forgery on his late pupil the Earl of Chesterfield.

Another singular circumstance in the life of Dr. Dodd was, his publication, a few years previous to his execution, of a sermon, intituled, " The frequency of capital punishments inconsistent with justice, sound policy, and religion." This, he says, was intended to have been preached at the Chapel-royal, at St. James's ; but omitted on account of the absence of the court, during the author's month of waiting.

The following extract will shew the unfortunate man's opinion on this subject, while, perhaps, contemplating the very crime for which he suffered. He says,

" It would be easy to shew the injustice of those laws which demand blood for the slightest offences ; the superior justice and propriety of inflicting perpetual and laborious servitude ; the greater utility hereof to the sufferer, as well as to the state, especially wherein we have a variety of necessary occupations, peculiarly noxious and prejudicial to the lives of the honest and industrious, and in which they might be employed, who had forfeited their lives and their liberties to society."

The method adopted in this forgery is also remarkable. He pretended that the noble lord had urgent occasion to borrow 4000*l*. but did not choose to be his own agent, and begged that the matter might be secretly and expeditiously conducted.

The doctor employed one Lewis Robertson, a broker, to whom he presented a bond, not filled up or signed, that he might find a person who would advance the requisite sum to a young nobleman who had lately come of

age.—After applying to several persons who refused the business, because they were not to be present when the bond was executed, Mr. Robertson, absolutely confiding in the doctor's honour, applied to Messrs. Fletcher and Peach, who agreed to lend the money. Mr. Robertson returned the bond to the doctor, in order to its being executed; and on the following day the doctor produced it as executed, and witnessed by himself. Mr. Robertson, knowing Mr. Fletcher to be a particular man, and who would consequently object to one subscribing witness only, put his name under the doctor's. He then went and received the money, which he paid into the hands of Dr. Dodd, 4000*l.* and produced the bond.

Lord Chesterfield was surprised, and immediately disowned it. Upon this Mr. Manly went directly to Mr. Fletcher to consult what steps to take. Mr. Fletcher, a Mr. Innis, and Mr. Manly went to Guildhall, to prefer an information respecting the forgery against the broker and Dr. Dodd. Mr. Robertson was taken into custody, while Fletcher, Innis, Manly, and two of the lord mayor's officers went to the house of the doctor in Argyle-street.

They opened the business—the doctor was very much struck and affected. Manly told him, if he would return the money, it would be the only means of saving him. He instantly returned six notes of 500*l.* each, making 3000*l.* he drew on his banker for 500*l.* the broker returned 100*l.* and the doctor gave a second draft on his banker for 200*l.* and a judgment on his goods for the remaining 200*l.* All this was done by the doctor in full reliance on the honour of the parties, that the bond should be returned to him cancelled; but, notwithstanding this restitution, he was taken before the lord mayor, and charged as above-mentioned. The doctor declared he had no intention to defraud lord Chesterfield, or the gentleman who advanced the money. He hoped that the satisfaction he had made in returning the money, would atone for his offence. He was pressed, he said, exceedingly for 300*l.* to pay some bills due to tradesmen. He took this step as a temporary resource, and would

have repaid it in half a year. "My Lord Chesterfield," added he, "cannot but have some tenderness for me, as my pupil. I love him, and he knows it. There is nobody wishes to prosecute. I am sure, my Lord Chesterfield don't want my life.—I hope he will shew clemency to me. Mercy should triumph over justice." Clemency, however, was denied; and the doctor was committed to the Compter, in preparation for his trial. On the 19th of February, Dr. Dodd being put to the bar at the Old Bailey, addressed the court in the following words:

"My lords,

"I am informed that the bill of indictment against me has been found on the evidence of Mr. Robertson who was taken out of Newgate, without any authority or leave from your lordships, for the purpose of procuring the bill to be found. Mr. Robertson is a subscribing witness to the bond, and, as I conceive, would be swearing to exculpate himself, if he should be admitted as a witness against me; and as the bill has been found upon his evidence, which was surreptitiously obtained, I submit to your lordships that I ought not to be compelled to plead on this indictment; and upon this question I beg to be heard by my counsel.

"My lords, I beg leave also further to observe to your lordships, that the gentlemen on the other side of the question are bound over to prosecute Mr. Robertson."

Previous to the arguments of the counsel, an order, which had been surreptitiously obtained from an officer of the court, dated Wednesday, Feb. 19, and directed to the keeper of Newgate, commanding him to carry Lewis Robertson to Hick's-Hall, in order to his giving evidence before the grand inquest on the present bill of indictment: likewise a resolution of the court, reprobating the said order; and also the recognizance entered into by Mr. Manly, Mr. Peach, Mr. Innis, and the right hon. the Earl of Chesterfield, to prosecute and give evidence against Dr. Dodd and Lewis Robertson, for the said forgery, were ordered to be read; and the clerk of the arraigns was directed to inform the court whether the name

Lewis Robertson was endorsed as a witness on the back of the indictment, which was answered in the affirmative.

The counsel now proceeded in their arguments for and against the prisoner. Mr. Howarth, one of Dr. Dodd's advocates, contended, that not any person ought to plead or answer to an indictment, if it appears upon the face of that indictment that the evidence upon which the bill was found was not legal, or competent to have been adduced before the grand jury.

Mr. Cooper, counsel on the same side, followed this idea, and hoped that Dr. Dodd might not be called on to plead to the bill of indictment, and that the bill might be quashed. Mr. Buller likewise argued, on the same side.—

The other counsel, employed for the prosecution, replied to these arguments with equal ingenuity and professional knowledge. It was now agreed that the trial should proceed, and the question respecting the competency of Robertson's evidence be reserved for the opinion of the twelve judges. Hereupon Dr. Dodd was indicted for forging a bond for the payment of 4000*l.* with intent to defraud, &c. and the facts already stated were sworn to by the respective witnesses. When the evidence was gone through, the court called upon the doctor for his defence which was as follows :

“ My lords, and gentlemen of the jury,

“ Upon the evidence which has been this day produced against me, I find it very difficult to address your lordships ; there is no man in the world who has a deeper sense of the heinous nature of the crime for which I stand indicted than myself. I view it, my lords, in all its extent of malignancy towards a commercial state, like ours ; but, my lords, I humbly apprehend, though no lawyer, that the moral turpitude and malignancy of the crime always, both in the eye of the law, and of religion, consists in the intention. I am informed, my lords, that the act of parliament on this head runs perpetually in this style, *with an intention to defraud*. Such an intention, my lords and gentlemen of the jury, I believe, has not

been attempted to be proved upon me, and the consequences that have happened, which have appeared before you, sufficiently prove that a perfect and ample restitution has been made. I leave it, my lords, to you, and the gentlemen of the jury, to consider, that if an unhappy man ever deviates from the law of right, yet if in the single first moment of recollection, he does all that he can to make a full and perfect amends, what, my lords, and gentlemen of the jury, can God and man desire further?

My lords, there are a variety of little circumstances too tedious to trouble you with, with respect to this matter. Were I to give a loose to my feelings, I have many things to say which I am sure you would feel with respect to me: but, my lords, as it appears on all hands, as it appears, gentlemen of the jury, in every view, that no injury, intentional or real, has been done to any man living, I hope that, therefore, you will consider the case in its true state of clemency. I must observe to your lordships, that though I have met with all candour in this court, yet I have been pursued with excessive cruelty; I have been prosecuted after the most express engagements, after the most solemn assurances, after the most delusive, soothing arguments of Mr. Manly; I have been prosecuted with a cruelty scarcely to be paralleled. A person avowedly criminal in the same indictment with myself has been brought forth as a capital witness against me; a fact, I believe, totally unexampled. My lords, oppressed as I am with infamy, loaded as I am with distress, sunk under this cruel prosecution, your lordships and the gentlemen of the jury, cannot think life a matter of any value to me. No, my lords, I solemnly protest, that death of all blessings would be the most pleasant to me after this pain. I have yet, my lords, ties which call upon me—ties which render me desirous even to continue this miserable existence. I have a wife, my lords, who, for twenty-seven years, has lived an unparalleled example of conjugal attachment and fidelity, and whose behaviour during this trying scene would draw tears of approbation, I am sure, even from the most inhuman.

My lords, I have creditors, honest men, who will lose much by my death. I hope, for the sake of justice towards them, some mercy will be shewn to me. If, upon the whole, these considerations at all avail with you, my lords, and you, gentlemen of the jury—if, upon the most impartial survey of matters, not the slightest intention of injury can appear to any one—and I solemnly declare it was in my power to replace it in three months—of this I assured Mr. Robertson frequently, and had his solemn assurances that no man should be privy to it but Mr. Fletcher and himself—and if no injury was done to any man upon earth, I then hope, I trust, I fully confide myself in the tenderness, humanity, and protection, of my country.”

The jury retired for about ten minutes, and then returned with a verdict, that “the prisoner was guilty;” but at the same time presented a petition, humbly recommending the doctor to the royal mercy.

The opinion of the judges was, that he had been legally convicted.

On the last day of the sessions Dr. Dodd was again put to the bar, when the clerk of the arraigns said,—

“Dr. William Dodd,

“You stand convicted of forgery—what have you to say why this court should not give you judgment to die according to law?”

Hereupon Dr. Dodd addressed the court as follows :

“My lord,

“I now stand before you a dreadful example of human infirmity. I entered upon public life with the expectations common to young men whose education has been liberal, and whose abilities have been flattered; and when I became a clergyman, I considered myself as not impairing the dignity of the order. I was not an idle, nor, I hope, an useless minister: I taught the truths of Christianity with the zeal of conviction, and the authority of innocence.

My labours were approved—my pulpit became popular: and I have reason to believe, that of those who heard me, some have been preserved from sin, and some have

been reclaimed.—Condescend, my lord, to think, if these considerations aggravate my crime, how much they must embitter my punishment ! Being distinguished and elevated by the confidence of mankind, I had too much confidence in myself, and thinking my integrity, what others thought it, established in sincerity, and fortified by religion, I did not consider the danger of vanity, nor suspect the deceitfulness of mine own heart. The day of conflict came, in which temptations seized and overwhelmed me ! I committed the crime, which I entreat your lordship to believe that my conscience hourly represents to me in its full bulk of mischief and malignity. Many have been overpowered by temptation, who are now among the penitent in heaven ! To an act now waiting the decision of vindictive justice, I will not presume to oppose the counter-balance of almost thirty years (a great part of the life of man) passed in exciting and exercising charity—in relieving such distresses as I now feel—in administering those consolations which I now want. I will not otherwise extenuate my offence, than by declaring, what I hope will appear to many, and what many circumstances make probable, that I did not intend finally to defraud : nor will it become me to apportion my own punishment, by alledging that my sufferings have been not much less than my guilt : I have fallen from reputation, which ought to have made me cautious, and from a fortune which ought to have given me content. I am sunk at once into poverty and scorn : my name and my crime fill the ballads in the streets ; the sport of the thoughtless, and the triumph of the wicked ! It may seem strange, my lord, that, remembering what I have lately been, I should still wish to continue what I am ! but contempt of death, how speciously soever it may mingle with heathen virtues, has nothing in it suitable to Christian penitence. Many motives impel me to beg earnestly for life. I feel the natural horror of a violent death, the universal dread of untimely dissolution. I am desirous to recompense the injury I have done to the clergy, to the world, and to religion, and to efface the scandal of my crime, by the example of my repentance : but above all, I wish to die with thoughts

more composed, and calmer preparation. The gloom and confusion of a prison, the anxiety of a trial, the horrors of suspense, and the inevitable vicissitudes of passion, leave not the mind in a due disposition for the holy exercises of prayer and self-examination. Let not a little life be denied me, in which I may, by meditation and contrition, prepare myself to stand at the tribunal of Omnipotence ; and support the presence of that Judge, who shall distribute to all according to their works—who will receive and pardon the repenting sinner, and from whom the merciful shall obtain mercy ! For these reasons, my lord, amidst shame and misery, I yet wish to live ; and most humbly implore, that I may be recommended by your lordship to the clemency of his majesty.”

Here he sunk down overcome by feelings of inexpressible agony ; and some time elapsed before he was sufficiently recovered to hear the dreadful sentence of the law, which the Recorder pronounced upon him in the following words :

“ Dr. William Dodd,

“ You have been convicted of the offence of publishing a forged and counterfeit bond, knowing it to be forged and counterfeited ; and you have had the advantage which the laws of this country afford to every man in that situation, a fair, an impartial, and attentive trial. The jury, to whose justice you appealed, have found you guilty ; their verdict has undergone the consideration of the learned judges, and they found no ground to impeach the justice of that verdict ; you yourself have admitted the justice of it : and now the very painful duty that the necessity of the law imposes upon the court to pronounce the sentence of that law against you, remains only to be performed. You appear to entertain a very proper sense of the enormity of the offence which you have committed ; you appear, too, in a state of contrition of mind, and I doubt not have duly reflected how far the dangerous tendency of the offence you have been guilty of is increased by the influence of example, in being committed by a person of your character, and of the sacred function of which you are a member. These sentiments seem to be yours :

I would wish to cultivate such sentiments ; but I would not wish to add to the anguish of a person in your situation by dwelling upon it. Your application for mercy must be made elsewhere ; it would be cruel in the court to flatter you ; there is a power of dispensing mercy where you may apply. Your own good sense, and the contrition you express, will induce you to lessen the influence of the example, by publishing your hearty and sincere detestation of the offence of which you are convicted ; and that you will not attempt to palliate or extenuate, which would indeed add to the degree of the influence of a crime of this kind being committed by a person of your character and known abilities ; I would therefore warn you against any thing of that kind. Now, having said this, I am obliged to pronounce the sentence of the law, which is—That you, Dr. William Dodd, be carried from hence to the place from whence you came ; that from thence you are to be carried to the place of execution, when you are to be hanged by the neck until you are dead.” To this Dr. Dodd replied, “ Lord Jesus, receive my soul.”

Great exertions were now made to save Dr. Dodd. The newspapers were filled with letters and paragraphs in his favour. Individuals of all ranks exerted themselves in his behalf : parish officers went in mourning from house to house, to procure subscriptions to a petition to the king ; and this petition, which, with the names, filled twenty-three sheets of parchment, was actually presented. Even the lord-mayor and common-council went in a body to St. James's to solicit mercy for the convict.

As clemency, however, had been denied to the unfortunate Perreaus, it was deemed unadvisable to extend it to Dr. Dodd. This unhappy clergyman was attended to the place of execution, in a mourning coach, by the Rev. Mr. Villette, ordinary of Newgate, and the Rev. Mr. Dobey. Another criminal, named John Harris, was executed at the same time. It is impossible to give an idea of the immense crowds of people that thronged the streets from Newgate to Tyburn. When the prisoners arrived

at the fatal tree, and were placed in the cart, Dr. Dodd exhorted his fellow-sufferer in so generous a manner, as testified that he had not forgot the duty of a clergyman, and was very fervent in the exercise of his own devotions. Just before the parties were turned off, the doctor whispered to the executioner. What he said is not ascertained ; but it was observed that the man had no sooner driven away the cart, than he ran immediately under the gibbet, and took hold of the doctor's legs, as if to steady the body, and the unhappy man appeared to die without pain.

It is needless to comment upon the lamentations on the fate of such a man as we have described in Dr. Dodd.

During Dr. Dodd's confinement in Newgate, a space of several months, he chiefly employed his time in the exercise of his pen ; and thereby has left the world many testimonies of a feeling heart, as well as great abilities.

The principal of these were his Thoughts in Prison, in five parts, from which we cannot doubt, but that our readers, in finishing our life of so eminent, yet unfortunate a man, will be gratified in a few short extracts ; "I began these Thoughts," says the unhappy man, writing in Newgate, under the 23rd of April, 1777, after his condemnation, "merely from the impression of my mind, without plan, purpose, or motive, more than the situation of my soul.

"I continued thence on a thoughtful and regular plan ; and I have been enabled wonderfully, in a state which in better days I should have supposed would have destroyed all power of reflection, to bring them nearly to a conclusion. I dedicate them to God, and the reflecting serious, among my fellow-creatures ; and I bless the Almighty for the ability to go through them, amidst the terrors of this dire place, (Newgate) and the bitter anguish of my disconsolate mind ! The thinking will easily pardon all inaccuracies, as I am neither able nor willing to read over these melancholy lines, with a curious or critical eye.

They are imperfect, but in the language of the heart ;  
and had I time and inclination, might, and should, be  
improved.—But—— (Signed) W.D.

The unfortunate author's "Thoughts on his Imprisonment" are thus introduced :

" My friends are gone ! harsh on its sullen hinge  
" Grates the dread door : the massy bolts respond  
" Tremendous to the surly keeper's touch :  
" The dire keys clang, with movement dull and slow,  
" While their behest the ponderous locks perform :  
" And fasten'd firm, the object of their care  
" Is left to solitude, to sorrow left.

" But wherefore fasten'd ? Oh ! still stronger bonds  
" Than bolts, or locks, or doors of molten brass,  
" To solitude and sorrow could consign  
" His anguish'd soul, and prison him, tho' free !  
" For whither should he fly, or where produce  
" In open day, and to the golden sun,  
" His hapless head ! whence every laurel torn ;  
" On his bald brow sits grinning infamy :  
" And all in sportive triumph twines around  
" The keen, the stinging arrows of disgrace."

After dwelling on the miseries of that dreary confinement, at the sight of which he formerly started with horror, when his duty as a Christian called him to that den to visit it, he adds :

" O dismal change ! now not in friendly sort  
" A Christian visitor to pour the balm  
" Of Christian comfort in some wretch's ear—  
" I am that wretch myself ! and want, much want,  
" That Christian consolation I bestow'd,  
" So cheerfully bestowed ! Want, want, my God,  
" From thee the mercy, from my fellow man  
" The lenient mercy, which thou know'st my gladsome soul  
" Ever sprang forth with transport to impart.

" Why then, mysterious Providence, pursu'd  
" With such unfeeling ardour ? Why pursu'd  
" To death's dread bourn, by men to me unknown !  
" Why—stop the deep question ; it o'erwhelms my soul ;  
" It reels, it staggers ! Earth turns round : My brain

" Whirls in confusion ! My impetuous heart  
 " Throbs with pulsations not to be restrain'd ;  
 " Why ?—Where ?—O Chesterfield, my son, my son !"

Whether the writer is warranted in adopting the last words of David on Absalom, considering the wide difference of their situations, may be questioned ; yet great allowance is to be made for him, circumstanced as he was ; and so soon after his trial, he must have been more than man, not to have retained some resentment against his prosecutors, especially his pupil, Stanhope, Earl of Chesterfield, however innocent, however justifiable. If his lordship felt as a man, his situation as an evidence was truly pitiable.—We hope he did.

The unfortunate divine then proceeds :

" Nay, talk not of composure ! I had thought  
 " In older time, that my weak heart was soft,  
 " And pity's self might break it. I had thought  
 " That marble-eyed Severity would crack  
 " The slender nerves which guide my reins of sense,  
 " And give me up to madness ! 'Tis not so ;  
 " My heart is callous, and my nerves are tough ;  
 " It will not break ; they will not crack ; or else  
 " What more, just heaven ! was wanting to the deed,  
 " Than to behold—Oh ! that eternal night  
 " Had in that moment screened from myself !  
 " My Stanhope to behold ! Ah ! piercing sight !  
 " Forget it ; 'tis distraction : speak who can !  
 " But I am lost ! a criminal adjudged !

## THE RIOTS IN LONDON,

*Which commenced June 2, 1780, and the Execution of the Rioters.*

WE have now arrived at that awful period in the history of England, when a lawless mob excited by party zeal threatened its capital with destruction, and held all the constituted authorities in terror ; a commotion of apparently so little importance in its commencement, and so rapid and daring in its progress has seldom occurred in any civilized country.

The sovereignty of the king, and the property of the subject rested on laws which the magistrates were confessedly afraid to enforce. The very existence of the city depended for some days on the caprice of an uncurbed multitude.

In the latter part of the month of May, the following notice was inserted in the London papers, and posted in the streets :

### PROTESTANT ASSOCIATION.

“Whereas no hall in London can contain forty thousand persons,

“*Resolved*, That this association do meet on Friday next, in St. George’s Fields, at ten o’clock in the morning, to consider the most prudent and respectful manner of attending their petition, which will be presented the same day to the House of Commons.

*Resolved*, For the sake of good order and regularity, that this association, in coming to the ground, do separate themselves into four distinct divisions, viz. the London division, the Westminster division, the Southwark division, and the Scotch division.

*Resolved*, That the London division do take place of the ground towards Southwark ; the Westminster division second ; the Southwark division third ; and the Scotch division upon the left, all wearing blue cockades, to distinguish themselves from the papists and those who approve of the late act in favour of popery.

*Resolved*, That the magistrates of London, Westminster, and Southwark, are requested to attend, that their presence may over-awe and controul any riotous or evil-minded persons, who may wish to disturb the legal and peaceable deportment of his Majesty’s subjects.

By order of the Association,

Signed, G. GORDON.

London, May 29.

The particulars of the outrages of the mob, for many days after this meeting had taken place, would fill a volume. We shall extract Dr. Johnson’s account, who

was an eye-witness, and at the time wrote them in letters to Mrs. Thrale, who with many thousand inhabitants, had fled the horrid scene which the metropolis presented. The doctor on this subject, says,

“ On Friday, the second of June, the good Protestants met in St. George’s-Fields, at the summons of Lord George Gordon, and marching to Westminster, insulted the Lords and Commons, who all bore it with great tameness. At night the outrages began by the destruction of the Mass-house, near Lincolns’-Inn.

“ On Monday, Mr. Strahan, who had been insulted, spoke to lord Mansfield, who had likewise been insulted, of the licentiousness of the populace ; and his lordship treated it as a very slight irregularity.

“ On Tuesday night they pulled down Fielding’s house, (the public-office in Bow-street) and burnt his goods in the street.

“ On Monday, they had gutted Sir George Saville’s house, but the building was saved.

“ On Tuesday evening, leaving Fielding’s ruins, they went to Newgate, to demand their companions, who had been seized for demolishing the chapel. The keeper could not release them, but by the mayor’s permission, which he went to ask ; at his return, he found all the prisoners released, and Newgate in a blaze.

“ They then went to Bloomsbury, and fixed upon lord Mansfield’s house, which they partly pulled down ; and as for his goods, they totally burnt them. They went to Caen-Wood, (his lordship’s country-seat) but a guard was there before them. They plundered several Papists, and burnt a Mass-house and some dwelling-houses in Moor-fields, the same night.

“ On Wednesday I walked with Dr. Scott, to look at Newgate, and found it in ruins, with the fire yet glowing. As I went by, the Protestants were plundering the Sessions-house, at the Old Bailey. There was not, I believe, a hundred ; but they did their work at leisure, in full security, without centinels, and without trepidation, as men lawfully employed in a full day. Such is the cowardice of a commercial place.

On Wednesday, they broke open the Fleet Prison, the King's Bench and Marshalsea Prisons, Wood-street Compter, and Clerkenwell-Bridewell. At night they set fire to the Fleet and the King's Bench, and I know not how many other places ; and one might see the glare of conflagration fill the sky from many parts.—The sight was dreadful. Some people were threatened : Mr. Strahan advised me to take care of myself. Such a time of terror you would have been happy in not seeing.

“ The king said in council, “ That the magistrates had done their duty, but that he would do his own ; ” and a proclamation was published, directing us to keep our servants within doors, as the peace was now to be preserved by force.

“ The soldiers were sent out to different parts, and the town is now quiet. They are stationed so as to be every where within call ; there is no longer any body of rioters, and the individuals are hunted to their holes, and led to prison ; Lord George Gordon was last night sent to the Tower.

“ Mr. John Wilkes was this day in my neighbourhood, to seize the publishers of a seditious pamphlet.

“ Several chapels have been destroyed ; and several inoffensive Papists have been plundered ; but the high sport was to burn the gaols. This was a good rabble trick. The debtors and the criminals were set at liberty ; but of the criminals, as has always happened, many are already re-taken ; and two pirates have surrendered themselves, and it is expected they will be pardoned.

“ Government now acts with its proper force ; and we are all now again under the protection of the king and the law. I thought it would be agreeable to you to have my testimony to the public security ; and that you would sleep more quietly, when I told you that you were safe.

“ There has been, indeed, a universal panic, from which the king was the first that recovered. Without the concurrence or assistance of his ministers, or even the assistance of the civil magistrates, he put the soldiers in motion, and saved the town from those calamities such a rabble's government must naturally produce.

“The public has escaped a very heavy calamity. The rioters attempted the Bank on Wednesday night, but in no great number. Jack Wilkes headed the party that drove them away. It is agreed, that if they had seized the Bank on Tuesday, at the height of the panic, when no resistance had been prepared, they might have carried away whatever they had found. Jack is always zealous for order and decency, and declares, that if he had been trusted with power, he would not have left a rioter alive.”

Thus far Dr. Johnson's sketch of these daring rioters. At the commencement of the outrages, the guards were by no means active in executing the commands of their officers; but when the regiments of militia, which had been ordered from a distance, by forced marches, entered London, they kept up an incessant fire upon the lawless mob, until they were every where dispersed.

The militia were afterwards encamped in Hyde-park, Finchley-common, and various other places near the metropolis.

The number of persons killed by the military, in these riots is unknown; various calculations have been made, from one hundred to one thousand. And numbers of dead bodies were carried off by their friends, who secretly buried them, for fear of being implicated in their crimes.

When the militia first fired upon the rioters, many innocent people fell. So panic-struck was every peaceable man, each expecting the destruction of his house, that many mingled in the mob, in order to learn their successive plans of mischief.

Of those brought to trial, we find, from the different court-records, that,

At the Old Bailey, there were tried	-	-	85
Of whom were convicted	-	.	35
Tried at St. Margaret's Hill	-	-	50
Convicted	-	-	24

Lord George Gordon was indicted as the instigator of all this mischief, tried in the court of King's Bench, and after a very long examination of witnesses, and pleadings, acquitted; the foreman of the jury, in answer to an

observation which Lord George Gordon was weak enough to make, after bringing in their favourable verdict, told him, that "it was a very nice point."

Lord George was certainly, at times deranged in his intellects : for having, some few years after, been convicted in the King's Bench, for a libel on the late Maria Antoinette, queen of France, and count D'Ademar, one of the French ministers of state ; he fled, as it was supposed, to Holland ; but in about six months, he was discovered, in the habit of a Jew, at Birmingham, with a long beard ; and having undergone circumcision, he had firmly embraced the Jewish faith.

He was taken by a King's Bench warrant, and sent to Newgate, pursuant to his sentence, where he lived some years, in the exercise of all the Jewish rites, and at length died in prison.

Such was the end of a man, once, perhaps, the most popular idol of the mob ; and, for some days the terror of all peaceable citizens.

Among those tried and convicted, were several women and boys ; but not one individual of the smallest respectability or good fame ; negroes, Jews, gypsies, and vagabonds of every description ; the very refuse of society.

Among the rioters, as though to sum up the account of their infamy and wretchedness, was Jack-Ketch himself. This miscreant, whose real name was Edward Dennis, was convicted of pulling down the house of Mr. Boggis, of New Turnstile. The keeper of Tothill-fields Bridewell would not suffer Jack-Ketch to go among the other prisoners, lest they should tear him to pieces. In order that he might hang-up his brother rioters, he was granted a pardon !

Among other deaths which resulted from these riots, was Mr. Robert Dillon, a pious man, who had officiated at the Roman Catholic chapel, in Moorfields, for thirty-six years. The mob pulled down his house, along with the chapel, burned his books, which he greatly valued, and his household furniture, not even leaving him a bed, whereon he might rest his old bones : this barbarous treatment broke his heart. He was a younger branch of the

ancient family of Proudston, in the county of Meath in Ireland; and was universally esteemed by a numerous acquaintance.

Richard Roberts and William Lawrence, mere lads in appearance, hardly seventeen years of age, were among the principal leaders in these dreadful scenes of destruction, and were the first who were brought to trial. They were convicted of pulling down the house of Sir John Fielding, and hanged in Bow-street.

Thomas Taplin, a captain-ripter, convicted of extorting money from Mr. Mahon. That gentleman deposed that a ragged little boy came first up to him, and said, "God bless your honour, some money for your poor mob!" He bid him begone. "Then," replied the imp of mischief, "I'll call my captain." Then came up the prisoner, Taplin, on horse-back, led by two boys, and attended by forty or fifty followers. Mr. Mahon was intimidated, so as to purchase his security with half-a-crown. Taplin was also hanged in Bow-street, where he had stopped Mr. Mahon.

George Kennedy, hanged in Bunhill-row, for pulling down the house of Mr. M'Cartney, a baker.

William M'Donald, a cripple, who had lost an arm, and had formerly been a soldier, hanged on Tower-hill for destroying the house of J. Lebarty, a publican, in St. Catharine's-lane, near thereto.

James Henry, for setting fire to the house of Mr. Langdon, on Holborn-hill.

George Bawton, a poor drunken cobbler, who meeting Mr. Richard Stone, in High-street, Holborn, stopped him, saying, "Pray remember the Protestant religion." Mr. Stone offered two-pence, but the cobbler damned him, and swore he would have sixpence, which was complied with, for this he was hanged! a punishment which at any other time would have borne no proportion to the crime, and an instance of severity which we trust could not at any other time have occurred in England.

William Brown, for extorting money from Mr. Dak-ing, in Bishopsgate-street, as for the Protestant cause, and threatening to rip him up, if he did not comply.

William Bateman, executed in Coleman-street, for pulling down the house of Mr. Charlton.

John Gray, Charles Kent, and Letitia Holland, hanged in Bloomsbury-square, for being a party to setting fire to the mansion of Lord Chief Justice Mansfield.

Mary Roberts and Charlotte Gardener, the latter a negress, hanged on Tower-hill, for assisting to demolish the house of J. Lebart, as before-mentioned.

Enoch Fleming, executed in Oxford-road, for assisting in pulling down the house of Ferdinand Schomberg.

George Staples, for being concerned in the riot in Moorfields, and assisting to pull down the Roman Catholic chapel there, and the house of James Malo.

Benjamin Waters, for a like offence to the house of one Murphy.

Samuel Solomon, a Jew hanged in Whitechapel, for joining in the demolishing the house of Christopher Conner.

John Gamble, hanged at Bethnel-Green, for assisting to pull down the house of Justice Wilmot.

James Jackson, at the Old Bailey, convicted of setting fire to Newgate.

John Burgess, hanged for aiding in pulling down the house of Mr. Lynch.

Thomas Price, James Burn, and Benjamin Waters, in Old-street, for the like offence on the house of John Bradbury.

George Staples and Jonathan Stacy, also hanged in Moorfields, for being concerned in the riot, and burning of houses there.

*Rioters executed for offences committed within the Borough of Southwark.*

Joseph Lovell and Robert Lovell, father and son, a pair of gypsies, hanged for aiding in setting fire to the house of Thomas Conolly.

The following, convicted of setting fire to the King's Bench Prison, and houses near thereto, were executed in St George's Fields, viz. Robert Lovell, Mary Cook,

Edward Dorman, Elizabeth Collins, Henry Penny, and John Bridport.

- The numbers who fell from the fire of the military, we have already observed, was incalculable.

The writer of these observations himself, witnessed ten or twelve who had been shot at Mr. Langdon's, on Holborn-hill ; and wherever the mob was fired upon, we may suppose many were killed and wounded.

The boats in which the robbers were carrying off the money plundered from the Toll-houses of Blackfriar's Bridge, were sunk by the fire of a party of the North-Hampshire militia, who also threw several of the rioters over the balustrades into the river Thames, where they perished.

A proclamation, and a reward of 500*l.* was offered for the discovery and conviction of the person or persons who demolished the houses and chapels of the foreign ambassadors ; and military law was established.

The following is an extract of the King's Speech to both Houses of Parliament the 18th of June, soon after the riots were ended :

“ My Lords, and Gentlemen,

“ The outrages committed by bands of lawless and desperate men, in various parts of this metropolis, broke forth with such violence, into acts of felony and treason, had so far overborne all civil authority, and threatened directly the immediate subversion of all legal power, the destruction of all property, and the confusion of every order of the state, that I found myself obliged, by every tie of duty and affection to my people, to suppress, in every part, those rebellious insurrections, and to provide for the public safety, by the most effectual and immediate application of the force intrusted to me by parliament. I have directed copies of the proclamations issued upon that occasion, to be laid before you.

“ Proper orders have been given for bringing the authors and abettors of these insurrections and the perpetrators of such criminal acts, to speedy trial, and to such condign punishment, as the laws of their country prescribe, and the vindication of public justice demand.

“ Though I trust it is not necessary, yet I think it right, at this time, to renew to you my solemn assurances that I have no other object but to make the laws of the realm, and the principles of our excellent constitution, in Church and State, the rule and measure of my conduct ; and that I shall ever consider it as the first duty of my station, and the chief glory of my reign, to maintain and preserve the established religion of my kingdoms ; and, as far as in me lies, to secure and to perpetuate the rights and liberties of my people.”

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JOHN DONELLAN, Esq.

*Executed at Warwick, April 2, 1784, for Poisoning  
Sir Theodosius Boughton, Bart.*

MR. DONELLAN had been captain in the army, and was the son of Colonel Donellan. At the age of twelve years he entered into the royal regiment of artillery : with part of which regiment he went to the East-Indies in 1754. On his arrival there, he changed his service into the 39th regiment of foot : but, on that regiment being ordered home, he, with many other officers of the same regiment, had his Majesty's leave to remain in the service of the East-India Company, without prejudice to their rank in the army. He then obtained a company, and certainly distinguished himself as a good soldier, being much wounded in the service, and, if his own account may be credited, was singularly instrumental to the taking of Mazulapatam. However, being appointed one of the four agents for prize-money, he condescended to receive some presents from some black merchants, to whom part of their effects had been ordered to be restored. For this he was tried by a court-martial, and cashiered. In the sequel, he purchased a share in the Pantheon, where he figured some time as master of the ceremonies. After a variety of applications, he at length obtained a certificate from the war-office that he had behaved in the East-Indie “ like a gallant officer ;” in consequence of which he was

put upon half pay in the 39th regiment. But notwithstanding the most strenuous memorials and petitions, representing his great services, and insisting that the offence for which he was broke was of a civil nature only, not cognizable by a court-martial, he never could obtain a restoration into the Company's service. In June, 1777, he married Miss Boughton. On Friday, March 30, 1781, he was tried at the assizes at Warwick, for the wilful murder of Sir Theodosius Edward Allesley Boughton, Bart. his brother-in-law.

Mr. Powell, apothecary, of Rugby, deposed that he had attended Sir Theodosius Boughton, for two months before his death, on account of a slight venereal complaint.

On the Wednesday morning, he was sent for to Lawford-hall. He arrived there a little before nine. Captain Donellan accompanied him into Sir Theodosius's room. He had been dead near an hour. The witness saw no distortion, nor any thing particular. He continued some minutes in the room. Captain Donellan said that Sir Theodosius died "in convulsions." Being questioned what further conversation he had then with Mr. Donellan, he said that he could not recollect his particular words, but his general intent was to make him believe that "Sir Theodosius had taken cold." Lady Boughton deposed, that Sir Theodosius was twenty years old on the 3rd of August last. On his coming of age, he would have been entitled to above 2000*l.* a-year. On the event of his dying a minor, the greater part of his fortune was to descend to his sister, the wife of Mr. Donellan.

It was known in the family that Sir Theodosius was to take his physic the next morning. He used to put his physic in his dressing-room. He happened once to forget to take it; upon which Mr. Donellan said, "Why don't you set it in your outer room? then you would not so soon forget it." After this he had several times the medicines upon his shelf over the chimney-piece in his outer room. On the evening of Tuesday, the 29th, about six o'clock Sir Theodosius went a-fishing, attended only by one servant, Samuel Frost. She and Mrs. Donellan took a

walk in the garden. They were there above an hour. To the best of her recollection she had seen nothing of Mr. Donellan after dinner till about seven o'clock, when he came out of the house door into the garden, and told them that "he had been to see them a-fishing, and that he would have persuaded Sir Theodosius to come in, lest he should take cold, but he *could not*." Sir Theodosius came home a little after nine, apparently very well. He went up into his own room soon after : and went to bed. He requested her to call him the next morning, and give him his physic. Accordingly, she went into his room about seven that morning, when he appeared to be very well. She asked him, "Where the bottle was?" he said, "It stands there upon the shelf."

He desired her to read the label, which she accordingly did, and found there was written upon it, "Purging draught for Sir Theodosius Boughton." As she was talking to him, she omitted to shake the bottle. Observing that, he said, "Pour it back again, and shake the bottle." In doing this she spilt part of it on the table ; the rest she gave him. As he was taking it, he observed, "it smelled and tasted very nauseous :" upon which she said, "I think it smells very strongly like bitter almonds." He then remarked, that, "he thought he should not be able to keep the medicine upon his stomach."

Here a bottle was delivered to Lady Boughton, (containing the genuine draught) which she was desired to smell at, and to inform the court, whether it smelt at all like the medicine Sir Theodosius took. She answered in the negative. She was then desired to smell at another, (containing the draught with the addition of the laurel-water,) which she said had a smell very much like that of the medicine she gave to Sir Theodosius. Lady Boughton then proceeded with her evidence. In two minutes or a minute and a half, after Sir Theodosius had taken the draught, he struggled very much. It appeared to her as if it was to keep the draught down. He made a prodigious rattling in his stomach, and guggling ; and these symptoms continued about ten minutes. He then seemed

as if he was going to sleep, or inclined to dose. Perceiving him a little composed, she went out of the room. She returned about five minutes after, and to her great surprise, found him with his eyes fixed upwards, his teeth clenched, and foam running out of his mouth. She instantly desired a servant to take the first horse he could get, and go for Mr. Powell. She saw Mr. Donellan in less than five minutes after. He came into the room where Sir Theodosius lay, and asked her, "What do you want?" she answered, "She wanted to inform him what a terrible thing had happened; that it was an unaccountable thing in the doctor to send such a medicine, for, if it had been taken by a dog, it would have killed him, and she did not think her son would live." He asked, "In what manner was Sir Theodosius, then?" She told him. He then asked her "where the physic bottle was?" She shewed him the two draughts. He took up one of the bottles, and said, "Is this it?" She answered, "Yes," He took it, and after rinsing it, emptied it into some dirty water that was in a wash hand bason. After he had thrown the contents of the bottle into the wash hand bason, she observed, "that he ought not to do that." She added, "What are you at? you shall not meddle with the bottle." Upon that he snatched up the other bottle, and rinsed it; then he put his finger to it, and tasted it. She said, "What are you about? you ought not meddle with the bottles." Upon which he said, "I did it to taste it." But he did not taste the first bottle. Sarah Blundell and Catharine Amos came up into the room. The former is since dead. He desired Sarah Blundell "to take away the bason, the dirty things, and the bottles;" and he put the bottles into her hands. Her ladyship took the bottles from her, set them down, and bid her let the things alone. He then desired, "that the room might be cleaned, and the clothes thrown into an inner room." Her ladyship opened the door of the inner room. As soon as Sarah Blundell had put the clothes into that room, Mr. Donellan, while the witness's back was turned, put the bottles into her hand again, and bid her take them down; and was angry she had not done it at first. This

circumstance, Sarah Blundell told her, for all that she herself knew of it in fact was that the bottles were taken out of the room. Some time afterwards her ladyship went down into the parlour. Mr. and Mrs. Donellan were there. The prisoner, in the witness's presence, said to his wife, that "her mother had been pleased to take notice of his washing the bottles, and that he did not know what he should have done, if he had not thought of saying he put the water into it to put his finger to it to taste." The witness on this turned away from him to the window, and made no answer; upon which he repeated the same. As she still made no answer, he desired his wife to ring the bell, in order to call up a servant; when the servant came, he ordered him to send in the coachman. When he came, the prisoner said, "Will, don't you remember that I set out of these iron gates at seven o'clock this morning?"—"Yes, Sir," said he. "And that was the first time of my going out; I have never been on the other side of the house this morning: you remember that I set out there this morning at seven o'clock, and asked for a horse to go to the wells?" "Yes, Sir." Mr. Donellan said, "Then are you my evidence." The servant answered, "Yes, Sir." She did not recollect that the prisoner made any other observation. She then said, that Mr. Donellan received a letter from Sir William Wheeler, desiring the body might be opened. He shewed her his answer to this letter. She told him, he had better let it alone, and not send such a letter as that; but she did not tell him the reason of her disliking it. He replied, "it was necessary to send an answer, and he would send it." She afterwards attended before the coroner and the jury in order to be examined. Mr. Donellan was present. She mentioned to the jury the circumstance of the prisoner's rinsing the bottles. Being returned to Lawford-hall, the prisoner said to his wife before the witness, that she had no occasion to have told the circumstance of his washing the bottles: she was only to answer such questions as were put to her; and that question had not been asked her. Being asked whether Mr. Donellan did not en-

deavour to account to her for her son's death, she answered, that, when the things were removed, in order to be put into the inner room, he said to the maid, "Here take his stockings; they have been wet; he has caught cold, to be sure: and that might occasion his death." On that she examined the stockings, and there was no mark or appearance of their having been wet. In answer to some further questions, she denied that she or any of the family had ever declined eating of the same dishes that Sir Theodosius did.

Mr. Donellan, indeed, had recommended to her not to drink out of the same cup, because he was affected with a venereal disorder; nor to touch the bread he did, because there might be arsenic about his finger, as he used to put arsenic for his fish.

Catharine Amos, cook to Lady Boughton, deposed, that she was called up stairs to the room where Sir Theodosius lay. She confirmed her lady's evidence with respect to the effects of the draught upon the deceased. She saw Mr. Donellan the day the body was opened. He said "there was nothing the matter: it was a blood vessel had broke, which had caused Sir Theodosius's death."

About a fortnight after, Mr. Donellan brought her a still that had been washed, and desired her to put it into the oven to dry, that it might not rust.

The Rev. Mr. Newsam deposed, that he saw Captain Donellan at Lawford-hall the Saturday preceding Sir Theodosius's death: that the captain informed him, Sir Theodosius was in a very ill state of health; that he had never got rid of the disorder that he had brought with him from Eaton, but rather, in his opinion, had been adding to it; that he had made such frequent use of mercury, inwardly and outwardly, that his blood was a mass of mercury and corruption.

Mr. Kerr, surgeon of Northampton, deposed, that he attended Sir Theodosius when he was at Mr. Jones's. He really saw no disorder. There was a small wart or excrescence, very immaterial indeed. It was so slight that he did not think it a subject of medicine at all. He

ordered him some lotion to wash it with, and dissuaded him from the use of medicine. .

Dr. Rattray, of Coventry, deposed, that in consequence of an anonymous note, desiring him to bring Mr. Wilner with him, in order to open the body of Sir Theodosius Boughton; they went together, and met Mr. Bucknell, Mr. Powell, and Mr. Snow, in Newbold church-yard. Mr. Bucknell opened the body.

Here the witness proceeded to describe the external appearances of the body, and its appearances in the dissecting. He was then asked whether, as he had heard the evidence of Mr. Powell and Lady Boughton, he could, from that evidence, totally independent of the appearances he had been describing, form a judgment of the death of Sir Theodosius? He answered, that exclusive of these appearances, he was of opinion, from the symptoms that followed the taking of the draught, that it was poison, and the certain cause of his death. Being desired to smell at the bottle, and asked what was the noxious medicine in it, he said it was a distillation of laurel leaves, called laurel water. Here he entered into a detail of several experiments on animals, tending to shew the instantaneous and mortal effects of the laurel-water. He knew nothing in medicine that corresponded in smell with that mixture, which was like that of bitter almonds. He further said, that the quantity of laurel-water contained in the bottle shewn to him, was sufficient to be the death of any human creature: and that the appearances of the body confirmed him in his opinion, that the deceased was poisoned, so far as, upon the viewing a body so long after the death of the subject, one could be allowed to form a judgment upon such appearances.

Mr. Wilner confirmed the evidence of Dr. Rattray. He was clearly of opinion that Sir Theodosius's death was occasioned by the poisonous draught administered to him by his mother. .

Dr. Ashe, of Birmingham, was of opinion, from the symptoms described, that the deceased died by poison. If the laurel-water were distilled strong enough to col-

lect the essential oil, a tea-spoonful of it would destroy animal life in a few seconds : and he believed a strong poison might be made from bitter almonds.

Dr. Parsons, professor of anatomy at Oxford, was of opinion, that Sir Theodosius died by poison, and that poison was laurel-water.

Mary Lymnes deposed, that she had been servant to Lady Boughton about two or three months. She left her place about a month before Sir Theodosius died. When she lived at Lawford-hall, Mr. Donellan used frequently to distill roses. He kept the still in what was called his own room, which was not that he slept in. He only slept in this room when Mrs. Donellan lay in. At that time it was left open, but at all other times was locked.

Francis Amos, gardener to Lady Boughton, deposed, that he was with Sir Theodosius the whole time he was fishing, the night before he died. Mr. Donellan was not there. The evening after Sir Theodosius died, the prisoner came to him in the garden, and said, " Now, gardener, you shall live at your ease, and work at your ease ; it shall not be as it was in Sir Theodosius's days : I wanted to be master before, but I have got master now, and I shall be master."

Two or three days after Sir Theodosius died, he brought him a still to clean ; it was full of wet lime. He said he used the lime to kill fleas. The witness used to gather lavender for him to distill. In the garden there were laurels, bays, and laurus-stines.

On the morning that Sir Theodosius died, Mr. Donellan came to him, and bid him get a couple of pigeons directly. He answered, " there were none fit to eat." The prisoner replied, " It will make no odds if they are not, for they are for Sir Theodosius. We must have them against the doctor comes, poor fellow ! he lies in a sad agony now with this d—d nasty distemper ; it will be the death of him."

As soon as the witness went into the house with the pigeons, he met his lady and Mrs. Donellan at the door. They were wringing their hands, and said, " It is too late now, he is dead."

William Crofts, one of the coroner's jury, deposed, that on the examination of Lady Boughton, when she said, that "Captain Donellan rinsed the bottle, he saw the captain catch her by the gown, and give her a twitch."

John Darbyshire deposed, that he had been a prisoner in Warwick gaol for debt; that Mr. Donellan and he had a bed in the same room for a month or five weeks. He remembered to have had a conversation with him about Sir Theodosius's being poisoned. On his asking him whether the body was poisoned or not, he said, "There was no doubt of it." The witness said, "For God's sake, captain, who could do it?" He answered, "It was among themselves, he had no hand in it." The witness asked, "Whom he meant by themselves?" He said, "Sir Theodosius himself, Lady Boughton, the footman, and the apothecary." The witness replied, "Sure, Sir Theodosius could not do it himself." He said, "He did not think he did." The witness answered, "The apothecary could hardly do it; he would lose a good patient; the footman could have not the least interest in it; and it was unnatural to suppose that Lady Boughton would do it." He then said, "How covetous Lady Boughton was; she had received an anonymous letter the day after Sir Theodosius's death, charging her plump with poisoning him; that she called him, and read it to him, and she trembled; she desired he would not let his wife know of that letter, and asked him if he would give up his right to the personal estate, and to some estates of about 200*l.* a-year belonging to the family." The conversation was about a month after the captain came into the gaol. At other times he had said, "That he was innocent; it was impossible he could do a thing that never was in his power."

This being the chief evidence, the prisoner, in his defence, pleaded a total ignorance of the fact, and several respectable characters bore testimony of his integrity. The jury, however, found him guilty, and he received sentence of death.

At seven o'clock next day, he was carried to the place of execution, in a mourning coach, followed by a hearse

and the sheriff's officers in deep mourning ; as he went on he frequently put his head out of the coach, desiring the prayers of the people around him.

On his arrival at the place of execution, he alighted from the coach, and ascending a few steps of the ladder, prayed for a considerable time, and then joined in the usual service, with the greatest appearance of devotion ; he then, in an audible tone of voice, addressed the spectators in the following terms : " That as he was then going to appear before God, to whom all deceit was known, he solemnly declared, that he was innocent of the crime for which he was to suffer ; that he had drawn up a vindication of himself, which he hoped the world would believe, for it was of more consequence to him to speak truth than falsehood, and he had no doubt but that time would reveal the many mysteries that had arisen in his trial."

After praying fervently some time, he let his handkerchief fall, a signal agreed upon between him and the executioner, and was launched into eternity.\* When the body had hung the usual time, it was put into a black coffin, and conveyed to the Town-hall to be dissected.

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### ROBERT JAQUES,

*Convicted at the Old Bailey, July, 11, 1790, of being a party in a Conspiracy against the Warden of the Fleet Prison, and sentenced to be imprisoned and pilloried.*

THIS was a crime of so public a nature, so artfully planned, and so daringly attempted, that in order to give the reader a general view of the transaction, we shall transcribe, verbatim, from the sessions-paper, the speech of Mr. Silvester, then leading counsel for the crown, and now recorder of London ; and which was very clearly and fully proved in evidence, on his trial, which began at eleven in the morning, and lasted till eight at night.

The case was thus opened by Mr. Silvester,

*“ May it please your lordship and you gentlemen of the jury.*

“ This indictment has been stated to you, charging several persons with a conspiracy, Robert Jaques, John Tronson alias James Smith, Richard Bailey, Elizabeth Tronson, and Francis Shanley. The conspiracy is, that these persons conspired to charge the warden of the Fleet, with a sum of one thousand three hundred pounds, he being answerable in case of the escape of any of his prisoners.

“ The prosecutor is the warden of the Fleet: the defendant, Mr. Jaques, is a person whose character, perhaps, you have heard of, if not you will find it recorded in the several commitments and records of the several courts of justice in this kingdom: the defendant, Mr. Tronson, was originally a servant, he then became apothecary, afterwards a perfumer, and last of all a quack doctor; the next defendant, Richard Bailey, is the brother-in-law of Jaques, keeping a public house in Lime-street, a man in great distress; Elizabeth Smith, otherwise Tronson, is the mistress of Mr. Tronson, who I described to you before; and Francis Shanley, alias Loftus, is a young man, an Irishman, who having spent most of his fortune, and spent great part of his time in the several prisons of this metropolis, and the last we hear of him is in Newgate, where Tronson was confined for debt.

“ The question is, whether they are or are not concerned in one of the foulest conspiracies that ever was invented? Jaques, the prime mover and planner of the conspiracy, applied to the warden of the Fleet that he might be admitted to the place of clerk of the papers, stating that there was nothing against him but his character, particularly that there were men like him, who had been guilty of the worst offenses, and had afterwards become useful officers; we have his letter to the warden, in which he writes as follows: “ Whoever you engage with, let it be a man that knows the world, that he may be able to guard against the tricks which your situation subjects you to.” Jaques then, perfectly aware that the

situation of the warden of the Fleet subjected him to many tricks and contrivances, and he, being that person of experience, knew very well his power ; upon which Jaques, having been offended with the warden locking him up, having broke through the rules, the first thing he does is to apply to a person of the name of Abbot, to get some person who was willing to be arrested, that he might escape, and the warden to be fixed with the debt : Abbot refused. The next was a man of the name of Kane ; he told him it was a matter very easily managed, if he could get any one person that was willing to be arrested, that whatever was the debt, they would fix the warden and divide the money : Kane refused. The next person he applied to was Tronson ; Tronson, the friend of Jaques, was applied to, to get a proper person, who from his appearance might impose on the turnkey, and escape disguised ; Tronson recollecting that his friend Shanley, with whom he had spent his time in Newgate, was of a fair complexion, small, and likely to be disguised as a woman, applied to him ; he was the man fixed on to be the prime mover in this transaction, of which Jaques was the planner : the way to do it was to have two warrants of attorney ; upon which Alder, the relation of Tronson's mistress, was to be the plaintiff in one that was four hundred and fifty pounds ; Tronson, to carry this into execution, applied on the 5th of August to Mr. Crossley, the attorney ; he told him that he wished to arrest a person for a friend of his, a Mr. Alder, a gentleman who was a money-broker, one of those people who lend money to distressed officers, living at Chelsea, in Sloane-street : he lent a sum of money to an extravagant young man, and they were afraid he was going to Ireland ; upon which a warrant of attorney was produced, and he was directed particularly, immediately to arrest Shanley : Shanley was described as a young gentleman of character and fortune, a dressy man, known by being dressed in blue and gold ; upon which a particular direction was given to Mell, the officer, that this Shanley was to be arrested : he was arrested on the 15th of August, and carried down by Mell, the officer, to Simpson's house ;

Tronson was continually there, and it created some little suspicion in the officer, and likewise in the attorney, that the man who was so active to arrest the defendant should be in habits of intimacy with him ; but so it was, Tronson was continually with Shanley while he was there ; having given this description of Alder, the plaintiff, that he was a money broker, and it turning out afterwards that Mr. Alder kept a little register-office in Fetter-lane, only having a back room, so distressed that he had not a bed to lay on, forced in the summer to work at hay-making, and obliged to live for three days on the produce of a pair of nut-crackers—But, says Mr. Tronson, he has offered to pay part of the money ; Mr. Crossley went to the officer's where he saw Mr. Shanley in custody ; he admitted the debt was just and true : you see by this means Tronson had got Shanley into the custody of the officer ; this was on the 15th of August.

“ The next thing is, Jaques comes ; and therefore it is necessary his warrant of attorney should be for a more considerable sum ; he has a warrant of attorney likewise for eight hundred and sixty-nine pounds ; the plaintiff upon that is Bailey, the brother-in-law of Jaques, keeping this public-house in Lime-street, a distressed man, his goods having been seized, and himself ruined ; Jaques writes to Price, his attorney, and sends him the warrant of attorney with this letter : ‘ Sir, I have sent you a warrant of attorney, which I shall be obliged to you to enter up, and take out execution on immediately ; as the defendant is in custody at Simpson's, in Brook-street, and I am told he will settle the matter, you may depend on this being a straight forward business ; you see I have not taken the warrant in my own name, nor never will any more ; but you will see, by the indorsement on the back, that it is in truth for me ; if you have any offer of settlement you may take half down, and a warrant of attorney for the remainder, but not otherwise ; I have sent two guineas per bearer, for money out of purse ; you need only lodge the writ in the Sheriff's-office ; in the other writ you sent me there is a mistake, therefore I shall not serve it till I see you. I am, Sir, your humble servant, Robert

Jaques.—Pray send me an answer by the bearer. The witness to the warrant of attorney is my brother.' So that the supposed plaintiff is my brother-in-law, the supposed witness is my brother Jaques, but I, Mr. Robert Jaques, am the real plaintiff in the business.

"Having thus got him arrested, and charged in the office of the Sheriff, the next thing is to get him into the Fleet; how is that to be done? Jaques knew that is to be done by habeas corpus: who should be the attorney? there are a number of attornies, and we will open the book and see how many there are of one name; it turns out there are two Mr. Martins: Martin is the man; there are but two Martins, and they will not know which of the two it was; now it turns out to be neither of them, for they are both here; so that from the beginning to the end it is a complete fabrication; now the next thing was how to get him out of the Fleet; that was to be done; because unless that could be done it would not do, the warden would not be charged with the debt.—On Saturday the 22nd, I think he was brought to the Fleet; on the Sunday they dined together; the company consisted of Mr. Robert Jaques and his lady, Mr. John Jaques and his wife, who from her size and appearance might very well pass for a man, and Mr. Shanley being from his appearance to pass for a woman, the transition was easy; Mr. Robert Hopper, and his wife, Mr. Shanley, and Mr. Tronson; Mrs. Hopper and Mr. Hopper coming in about four o'clock on the Sunday: Mr. John Jaques, with his lady Mrs. Jaques: they transferred their appearances, Mr. Shanley placed his blue and gold coat round his waist, to make some hips, and with a gown of Mrs. Jaques's he walked out; Mrs. John Jaques was left in company with Mr. Robert Jaques, Mr. Shanley went out of the gates between eight and nine in the evening, in the very same gown, in the very same dress and appearance that Mrs. John Jaques came in about four; they led a child out with him. Unfortunately Clipson the turnkey (now whether Jaques knew this before) had been sent for to his mother, in the country, and therefore the door was kept by an under-turnkey; he had not the least

suspicion; was not on his guard: the next day it was found that Mr. Shanley had escaped out of prison, and he was traced by some means or other to the lodgings of Mr. Tronson, in Sloane-street: they took coach directly, and went there; Mrs. John Jaques sent for her clothes, and they were returned; the next thing was to get Shanley out of the kingdom; because if he was here he might be taken by an escape warrant, and the whole would be discovered; he therefore the next day took a post chaise and went to Dover, and in company with Mr. Shakeshaft, a person he met with on the road, took boat, and went to Calais. They went to Tronson's the 29th; Tronson's lodgings was in the most miserable situation, scarce a table or a chair: Clipson charged him immediately with having aided and assisted in the escape; Tronson was exceedingly angry at it, and being told that he should be charged with a conspiracy, said, he did not care, that as to going to the Fleet again, he never would put his foot there again, for now he had got his friend out that was all he wished; he had his ends, therefore he did not care a penny about it.

"Gentlemen, upon this Tronson wrote a letter, and sent it to a friend of his, of the name of Alder, who was the plaintiff in that business; now in that letter he writes in these words: 'Dear Franck, I have this moment received your's; and have only time to inform you that there has been six men here searching for you this moment. Matters are arrived to such a height, that I can neither call on Jaques, nor can he send to me at present, therefore I must request you will defer drawing, till you hear from me again. Rely upon it, I shall either call or send to him as soon as I can with safety. They have threatened to indite us all for a conspiracy. I must once more request you will live as saving as you can: God bless you. Your's sincerely, James Smith.' Here Tronson takes the name of Smith, and writes to his friend, Frank Shanley, at France. 'You must direct no more to Chelsea, but as follows: Mr. Smith, 97, Fetter-lane, Holborn,' (that being the place where this man,

Alder, had a place for a register-office.) ‘I hope you will have the goodness to excuse this scrawl, for by G—d, nothing but Botany-bay stares us in the face. Do not doctor me over any more in your letters.’ This letter is directed to Monsieur Loftus, Calais, France.

“This letter was afterwards produced; and by that means it was found that Shanley was in France, under the name of Loftus.

“Many letters afterwards passed from one to the other, from Shanley to Tronson, and from Tronson to Shanley; those directed from Shanley were directed to Mr. Smith, Fetter-lane; those from Tronson were directed to Mr. Loftus, in France.

“The next correspondence is a letter from Jaques; and I will just read one of them to you, (for there are more than one;) for Jaques who not only is a very good manager, but a very good actor, not only can plan, but can execute very well, either in his own hand or in a feigned hand sometimes, which this day will be proved to you; for some of those letters are in a feigned hand; but his tricks are so well known, that it will be proved to be his own hand-writing.

“‘Dear Sir, if this meets you, our friend Tom (Thomas Hopper) will have seen you, and informed you that villain, Clipson, the turnkey, set off for Calais this morning to you, to get you to do some wicked act against your friends: they all rely upon you with the greatest confidence. You will have heard that some of your letters fell into the enemy’s hands, in consequence of a traitor; but all will yet be well, so you are safe, and out of Old England. October 16th, 1789,’ directed to Monsieur Loftus, Calais.

“Then there is another letter to his friend Tom, which says,

“‘Dear Tom, if this should meet you, it is just to inform you that Clipson set off for Calais, to endeavour to find the same person you went in search of, to persuade him into something: I think some step might be taken to punish the villain; you have nothing to fear from us; every thing here goes on to your satisfaction: particulars I can-

not relate. I wrote to L—s, (that is Loftus.) Your's, sincerely, you know who.' This is Mr. Jaques's letter likewise.

"Now, gentlemen, these letters, you will say, how came we into the possession of them? because application being made to the Secretary of State's office, these letters were intercepted. Mr. Jaques, I see, had not heard of this before; he now hears of it; and he will see the letters produced, and proved to be his hand-writing. Gentlemen, the information he gave, was perfectly true and correct; for having learned that this man was in France, that Shanley was in France by the name of Loftus, on the road he met with Mr. Thomas Hopper, who went by the name of Johnson, and said he was clerk to Lady Loftus, in France. Clipson came and found, at the French hotel there, Mr. Shanley under the name of Loftus; Shanley being accused of this, went before a magistrate, and has made a full and clear discovery of the whole transaction; he has discovered how the plot was laid by Jaques; he has discovered how he escaped out of prison; and he, in short, has related every fact, and how he escaped.

"Gentlemen, that will be read in evidence before you; for he is one of the defendants in this very conspiracy; you will therefore have not only what has passed between Tronson, who is not here (though he ought to be here, having given notice of his trial,) but you will have what passed between Shanley and the persons concerned, during the transaction of the persons being in pursuit of Shanley. Jaques was not idle: Tronson was not asleep: it was necessary, if possible, to recover the money; and therefore instructions were to be given by Tronson to Mr. Crossley, to sue the warden for the debt due to Alder; and Jaques applied to his attorney, Mr. Price, to sue the warden for the debt due under the warrant of attorney.

"Gentlemen, this scheme would have taken place; the actions would have gone on; but the iniquity was so full, the acts came out so strong, that the attorneys who were applied to, gave up their papers, and gave every information in their power.

“Gentlemen, Tronson having applied very frequently to Mr. Crossley, giving intimation to a lady, a Miss Brooks, who lived in London, that he had escaped, telling her to come abroad to him, desiring Mr. Crossley, to proceed on it; by way of imposing on Mr. Crossley, to bring the action, clothes were sent by Tronson to Mr. Alder, for the purpose of dressing himself up to go to Mr. Crossley, to desire him to go on with the action. Alder was out; he had been passing the day with Tronson; he returned, and complained of being ill (for he began to be shocked at the idea of the iniquity;) he soon died; and then application was made to the widow, with an offer to her, if she would stand in the shoes of her husband, they offered her two hundred pounds; the clothes which he had to dress himself in were returned to Tronson. Jaques, with a very few days after the escape, was the first person to carry the intelligence; to be sure he was the person that knew it better than any body; he applies to Price, and desired him to proceed to recover the money, which was eight hundred and sixty pounds, anxious to get it on, thinking if he could get the money, he should be able to put it into his own pocket, or to share it among them.

“Gentlemen, in this state of the case, it will appear to you clearly, that these two warrants of attorney are fabricated: the witness to one is a Mr. Brown, who will not appear to prove his signature. The situation of Alder was such, that he could not lend Shanley a farthing. In regard to Jaques’s warrant of attorney, he confesses it was his own; he writes to his attorney; it is his own, though taken in the name of his brother; and the witness, his brother, John Jaques; who I believe he will not call, I wish to see him here; I wish to examine him. Then as to Mr. Bailey; Bailey is a brother-in-law of Jaques; so distressed, that he borrowed money before he went to the public house in Lime-street; so distressed, that he borrowed it of his brewer and of his distiller; and before he borrowed that money, he assigned all his effects over to Jaques his brother; this is the man he made use of as the plaintiff in the charge; and Mr. Bailey being

applied to for money, says, why says he, I shall not be able to pay you now ; but the moment we can recover some money from the warden, I shall be able to pay some of my debts ; so that he is to have some share in the concern.

“ Gentlemen, these are the facts I am instructed to lay before you : I have endeavoured to state them to you as shortly as I possibly could ; because a case like this requires no comment ; it requires a mere narrative of facts in the plainest way it possibly can ; and I am sure if I prove them in evidence, there cannot be a doubt in the mind of any man that hears me, that a fouler conspiracy could not enter the mind of man. Jaques knew perfectly well from his situation, that the warden of the Fleet was answerable for the persons in custody ; he knew very well the warden was answerable for the escape ; the only question therefore was, how he was to get this money in his pocket ; that was to get fictitious plaintiffs and fictitious defendants ; and to get a man that would look like a woman, and dress him in the habits of a woman, and impose upon the poor turnkey.

“ Gentlemen, a fouler conspiracy I believe never came before this court, and any jury. I have not opened a circumstance which I am not instructed I shall prove : these facts in my mind are irresistible ; they prove the connection between Jaques and Tronson : they prove the connection between Jaques and Shanley ; they prove that Shanley was sent to France after the escape had been contrived.

“ Gentlemen, so accustomed is Mr. Jaques to prisons of this kind, so hardened in iniquity, that he has not done it for the first time ; but this is a common trick.

“ Gentlemen, I do not wish that the character of Jaques, infamous as it is, should have any weight on your minds at all ; judge him on the facts I have opened to you ; and if he is as guilty as I am instructed he is, you will have no difficulty in pronouncing your verdict. As to Tronson, his character is not so black as Jaques’s ; but black enough of conscience. Shanley, if he is a gentleman, has disgraced himself by associating himself with

these people : as to Bailey, a relation of Jaques's, I shall say nothing of him. I sit down perfectly satisfied, that I shall prove such facts, such connections, between the parties, as not to leave the least doubt in the mind of any man, but that they are guilty of this charge ; and it is high time that justice should overtake these delinquents."

The prisoner conducted his own defence, and cross-examined the witnesses with some ingenuity. He addressed the court with considerable ability ; and when his case was going to the jury, he exclaimed, " For God's sake, gentlemen, consider my family ; I have a large family." He was however, without hesitation, found guilty of the conspiracy.

He then made the following appeal to the Bench :

*Mr. Jaques.* My lord, can I ask on which count I am found guilty ?

*Court.* Yes, you may ask that certainly.

*Mr. Silvester.* Third and fifth.

*Mr. Jaques.* My lord, I trust your lordship will, in passing sentence, have some consideration as to my family : I have a very large family entirely dependant on myself.

*Court.* It is not my province to pass the sentence ; but now you have brought it to my mind, I find by the evidence that you had it in contemplation to bring an action against the worthy Recorder : if he therefore has any difficulty in passing the sentence, I shall solicit the assistance of my brother Wilson, and pass it for him.

*Mr. Jaques.* My lord, if I had been indicted under the act for effecting the escape of a prisoner, you know the punishment that is inflicted under that act ; if you will, suffer me to transport myself from this country ; or otherwise I should be glad if sentence of death could be passed upon me.

**SENTENCE**—" Robert Jaques, the offence of which you stand convicted is one of the foulest crimes which man can commit ; it is so extensive in its consequences, and so dangerous in its example, that at all times the Court are bound to inflict a very heavy and severe punishment for it ; in your case it has been attended with every

circumstance that can aggravate so black a crime as this ; and therefore in passing the sentence upon you, which the court in their discretion think the case requires, I cannot make any allowances for any supposed mischief or inconveniences, which may arise from what you have yourself stated to have been your former situation of life : you have, entreated the jury to incline against you, because your life hitherto has been very bad : it is a strange defence to come out of the mouth of any person : perhaps you may have heard that it did succeed here in one case better than it ought, and therefore might succeed again in blinding a jury. The fact has been clearly proved against you beyond all possible doubt : and the offence is of that enormity, that the Court think themselves bound to inflict that punishment which the justice of the case requires, and they must rely on the officers of the court that the sentence is executed with proper severity. The sentence of this Court is : that you be *Imprisoned in his Majesty's gaol of Newgate for the space of three years, and that during that time you be once set in and upon the pillory at the Royal Exchange for the space of one hour, between the hours of twelve and two o'clock.*"

During Jaques's imprisonment, in pursuance of this sentence, Sir James Saunderson was robbed to a considerable amount in cash and notes. Part of the latter were brought into Newgate, (that receptacle of stolen property,) and Jaques contriving to get possession of them, under pretence of raising money thereon, gave immediate notice to Sir James, who, by this means, recovered the principal part of his property.

We are not, however, to believe, that this was a spontaneous act of virtue in Jaques ; he saw in it a gleam of hope, in prevailing upon Sir James, in return, to do him the kind office of getting, at least the more hateful part of his sentence, the pillory, remitted. In this he succeeded ; Sir James was a man of influence, and Jaques was pardoned. Yet it seems, that this fortunate escape was not ~~warning~~ sufficient to Jaques, who often appeared at the

criminal bar : for we find him, shortly afterwards, convicted of wilful perjury, from which he fled to parts beyond the seas.

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## RENWICK WILLIAMS,

(COMMONLY CALLED "THE MONSTER,")

*Convicted December, 19, 1790; of a brutal and wanton Assault on Miss Ann Porter, for which he was fined and imprisoned.*

SEVERAL months previous to the apprehension of this man, a report ran through all ranks of society, that young females, had been secretly wounded in different parts of their bodies, in the public streets, and often in the day-time, by a monster, who, upon committing the brutal crime, effected his escape.

At length a man named Renwick Williams was apprehended on the charge of one of the young ladies thus brutally wounded, and his trial came on at the Old Bailey, on the 18th of January, 1790.

The indictment charged, that with force and arms, in the parish of St. James's on the king's highway, Renwick Williams did, unlawfully, wilfully, and maliciously, make an assault upon, maim, and wound, Ann Porter, against the peace, &c. A second count charged the said Renwick Williams, that on the same day and year, he did, unlawfully, wilfully, and maliciously, tear, spoil, cut, and deface, the garments and clothes, to wit, the cloak, gown, petticoat, and shift, of the said Ann Porter, contrary to the statute, and against the peace, &c.

Miss Ann Porter deposed, that she had been at St. James's, to see the ball, on the night of the 18th of January, 1790, accompanied by her sister, Miss Sarah Porter, and another lady; that her father had appointed to meet them at twelve o'clock, the hour the ball generally breaks up; but that it ended at eleven; and she was therefore under the necessity either of staying where she was, until

her father came, or to return home at that time. Her father, she said, lived in St. James's-street, and that he kept a tavern and a cold-bath. She agreed to go home with her party.

As they proceeded up St. James's-street, her sister appeared much agitated, and called to her to hasten home, which she and her company accordingly did. Her sister was the first to reach the Hall-door. As the witness turned the corner of the rails, she received a blow on the right hip; she turned round, and saw the prisoner stoop down: she had seen him before several times, on each of which he had followed close behind her, and used language so gross, that the court did not press on her to relate the particulars.

He did not immediately run away when he struck her, but looked on her face, and she thus had a perfect opportunity of observing him. She had no doubt, she said, of the prisoner being the man that wounded her. She supposed that the wound was inflicted with a sharp instrument, because her clothes were cut, and she was wounded through them.

Miss Porter farther deposed, that on the thirteenth of June last, she was walking in St. James's Park, with her mother and her two sisters, and a gentleman of the name of Coleman. The prisoner at the bar met and passed her; she was struck with his person, and knew him; she found he had turned to look after her. Upon appearing agitated, she was questioned, and pointed him out to Mr. Coleman. She said she knew him, when he was brought up to the public-office, at Bow-street.

Her gown of pink silk, and her shift, which she wore the night she was wounded, were produced in court, and were cut on the right side a considerable length.

Miss Sarah Porter was next called. She swore, that she had seen the prisoner at the bar, prior to the 18th of June last, but had no acquaintance with him. He had followed her, and talked to her in language the most shocking and obscene. She had seen him four or five different times. On that night, when her sister was cut, she saw him standing near the bottom of St. James's-

street, and spying her, he exclaimed, "O, ho! are you there?" and immediately struck her a violent blow on the side of the head. She then, as well as she was able, being almost stunned, called to her sister, to make haste, adding, "Don't you see the wretch behind us?" Upon coming to their own door, the prisoner rushed between them, and about the time he struck her sister, he also rent the witness's gown. There were lights in the street, and she knew him.

Two more sisters, Miss Rebecca Porter and Miss Martha Porter, also bore unequivocal testimony, as to the identity of the prisoner, with respect to his having accosted them in company with their sisters, with the most obscene and indecent language.

Mr. John Coleman was the next witness called. He swore that he was walking with Miss Ann Porter, and the rest of her family, in St. James's Park, on the evening of Sunday, the thirteenth of June, 1789. That, upon observing Miss Porter much agitated, and enquiring the cause, she pointed out the prisoner at the bar, and said, "the wretch had just passed her." Having pointed him out, the witness followed him to the house of Mr. Smith, in South Moulton-street, and upon going into the parlour where he was, expressed his surprise on the prisoner's not resenting the insults he (the witness) had offered him; and demanded his address. Mr. Smith and the prisoner both expressed their surprise at such a demand, without a reason given; he therefore said, that he, the prisoner, had insulted some ladies, who had pointed him out, and that he must have satisfaction. The prisoner denied having offered any insult; but, upon his persisting, they exchanged addresses.

The prisoner's address was produced by the witness, No. 52, Jermyn-street. The witness and the prisoner then mutually recognised each other, as having been in company with each other before, and the witness then departed. On his departure, he repented having quitted him, and turning back, he met with him at the top of St. James's-street; he then accosted him again, saying, "I don't think you are the person I took you for; you had

better come with me now ; and let the ladies see you." The prisoner objected, as it was late at night ; but upon his saying it was close by, he went with him.

On his being introduced into the parlour, where the Miss Porters were sitting, two of them, Ann and Sarah, fainted away, exclaiming, " Oh ! my God ! that's the wretch ! " The prisoner then said, " The ladies' behaviour is odd ;—They don't take me for the monster that is advertised ? " The witness said, they did.

The prisoner was there an hour before he was taken away, and in that time said nothing particular.

Mr. Tomkins surgeon, was next called.—By his description the wound must have been made by a very sharp instrument. He had also examined the clothes, and they must have been cut at the same time. The wound itself was, at the beginning, for two or three inches, but skin-deep ; about the middle of it, three or four inches deep, and gradually decreasing in depth towards the end. The length of the wound, from the hip downwards, was nine or ten inches.

The prisoner being called upon for his defence, begged the indulgence of the court, in supplying the deficiency of his memory, upon what he wished to state, from a written paper. He accordingly read as follows :

" He stood," he said, " an object equally demanding the attention and compassion of the court. That, conscious of his innocence, he was ready to admit the justice of whatever sufferings he had hitherto undergone, arising from suspicion. He had the greatest confidence in the justice and liberality of an English jury, and hoped they would not suffer his fate to be decided by the popular prejudice raised against him. The hope of proving his innocence had hitherto sustained him.

" He professed himself the warm friend and admirer of that sex whose cause was now asserted ; and concluded with solemnly declaring, that the whole prosecution was founded on a dreadful mistake, which, he had no doubt, but that the evidence he was about to call, would clear up, to the satisfaction of the court."

His counsel then proceeded to call his witnesses.

Mr. Mitchell, the first evidence, is an artificial flower maker, living in Dover street, Piccadilly. The prisoner had worked for him nine months in all; he had worked with him on the eighteenth of January, the Queen's birth-day, the day on which Miss Porter had been wounded, from nine o'clock in the morning, till one o'clock in the day, and from half past two till twelve at night. He had then supped with the family. He gave the prisoner a good character, as behaving with good nature to the women in the house.

Miss Mitchell, the former witness's sister, told the same story.

Two other witnesses, domestics in the same house, likewise appeared on behalf of the prisoner; but the whole of the evidence, on his part, proved rather contradictory.

Mr. Justice Buller, with great accuracy and ability, went through the whole of this extraordinary business, stating with great clearness and perspicuity, the parts of the evidence that were most material for the consideration of the jury, with many excellent observations.

He said, it had been stated in various ways, that great outrages had been committed by the prisoner at the bar, and therefore, in his defence, he had very properly, not only applied to the compassion of the jury, to guard against the effects of prejudice, but also to their judgment. It was very proper to do so, and in this he only demanded justice; prejudice often injured, though it could never serve, the cause of justice.

In this the jury would have only to consider, what were the facts of which they were to be satisfied, and on which it was their province to decide. This being done by them, and if they should find the prisoner guilty, upon the present charge, he would reserve his case for the opinion of the twelve judges of England, and this he should do for several reasons; first, because this was completely and perfectly a new case in itself; and, secondly, because this was the first indictment of this kind that was ever tried. Therefore, although he himself entertained but little doubt upon the first point, yet, as

the case was new, it would be right to have a solemn decision upon it. So that hereafter the law, in that particular, may be declared from undoubted authority.

Upon the second point, he owned, that he entertained some doubts. This indictment was certainly the first of the kind that was ever drawn in this kingdom. It was founded upon the statute of the 6th Geo. I. Upon this statute it must be proved; that it was the intent of the party accused, not only to wound the body, but also cut, tear, and spoil the garment; here the learned judge read the clause of the act: one part of this charge was quite clear, namely, that Miss Porter was wounded, and her clothes torn. The first question, therefore, for the consideration of the jury would be, whether this was done wilfully, and with intent to spoil the garment, as well as to wound the body. That was a fact for the jury to decide, and if they agreed upon this, then, whether the prisoner was the man who did it.

He observed, that there might be cases in which the clothes were torn, and yet where this act would not apply; such, for instance, as a scuffle in a quarrel, where clothes might be torn wilfully, but not with that malice and previous intent which this act required.

It should be observed, that here there was a wound given, with an instrument that was not calculated solely for the purpose of affecting the body, such, for instance, as piercing or stabbing, by making a hole, but here was an actual cutting, and the wound was of a very considerable length, and so was the rent in the clothes. It was for the jury to decide, whether, as both body and clothes were cut, he who intended the end, did not also intend the means.

He left it to the jury to say, upon the whole of the case, whether the prisoner was guilty or innocent.

The jury immediately, without hesitation, found the prisoner guilty.

Mr. Justice Buller then ordered the judgment in this case to be arrested, and the recognizances of the persons bound to prosecute, to be respited until the December sessions.

The court was crowded with spectators by nine, when this trial began, which ended at five o'clock at night.

All the witnesses were examined separately.

At the commencement of the sessions at the Old Bailey, on the 10th December, Judge Ashurst addressed the prisoner nearly in the following terms: "You have been capitally convicted under the stat. 6 Geo. I. of maliciously tearing, cutting, spoiling, and defacing, the garments of Ann Porter, on the 18th January last. Judgment has been arrested upon two points—one, that the indictment is informal; the other that the act of Parliament does not reach the crime. Upon solemn consideration, the judges are of opinion, that both the objections are well founded: but although you are discharged from this indictment, yet you are within the perview of the common law. You are therefore to be remanded to be tried for a misdemeanor."

He was accordingly, on the 13th of the same month, tried at Hick's-hall, for a misdemeanor, in making an assault on Miss Ann Porter.

The trial lasted sixteen hours: there were three counts in the indictment, viz. for assaulting with intent to kill, for assaulting and wounding, and for a common assault.

The charge was that he, on the 18th January, 1790, made an assault on Ann Porter, and with a certain knife inflicted on her person a wound nine inches long, and in the middle part of it four inches deep.

The same witnesses were then called in support of the charge, as appeared on the trial at the Old Bailey; they gave a very clear, correct, and circumstantial evidence, positively swearing to the person of the prisoner.

The facts proved were nearly the same, with very little variation indeed with those which were given in evidence on his trial for the felony at the Old Bailey; for which reason we forbear to enter more fully on this trial.

The prisoner produced two witnesses, Miss Amet and Mr. Mitchell, who attempted to prove a clear *alibi*, and the credit of their testimony was not impeached by any contradiction. The question therefore was, to which the

jury would give credit; for the evidence on both sides was equally fair and unexceptionable.

The prisoner was again put to the bar at ten o'clock the next morning, and tried on the remaining indictments, on three of which he was found guilty; when the court sentenced him to two years' imprisonment in Newgate for each, and at the expiration of the time to find security for his good behaviour, himself in 200*l.* and two sureties in 100*l.* each.

This singular case excited universal attention; but many were by no means convinced of his guilt, believing that the witnesses, a circumstance which we have shewn too frequently to have happened, mistook the person of the prisoner. The particulars we have given of this brutal attack on the defenceless, by a monster of the stronger sex, with our full report of the trial, will sufficiently prepare our readers to judge for themselves on the case of Renwick Williams, divested of the popular prejudice then strong against him.

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### THE REV. MR. JACKSON,

*Convicted of Treason, in Dublin, April 23, 1793, but who died of Poison at the bar of the court, at the moment death would have been pronounced upon him.*

THE reverend Mr. Jackson was a native of Ireland, and a minister of the Church of England.

Early in life he was a preacher at Tavistock chapel, and resided for several years in chambers in Lyon's Inus, London.

The emoluments of his clerical occupation not affording him a sufficient subsistence he applied his talents to literature, and was for a considerable time editor of a newspaper, in which situation he made himself very conspicuous. He took a decided part in the quarrel between the Duchess of Kingston and Mr. Foote, and is blamed for having treated the latter with too much asperity. He was a sharer in the romantic scheme of the *Royalty Theatre*, and was obliged for a considerable

time to abscond, on account of the pecuniary difficulties in which it involved him. Afterwards he entered into a criminal conspiracy, and was tried at Dublin for high treason, on the 23d of April, 1793, at eleven o'clock. The indictment charged the prisoner with two species of treason, namely, compassing the King's death, and adhering to his enemies; and stated fourteen over-acts. The Attorney-General opened the prosecution on the part of the crown; and having dwelt at some length on the doctrine of treason, proceeded to substantiate the charges laid in the indictment; for which purpose he called Mr. Cockayne, an attorney of London, who deposed that he had been for a series of years the law-agent and intimate friend of Mr. Jackson, who, a few years since, went to France (as the witness understood) to transact some private business for Mr. Pitt, where he resided a considerable time. Soon after his return Mr. Cockayne said, he called on Jackson, who told him in confidence, that he had formed a design of going to Ireland, to sound the people, for the purpose of procuring a supply of provisions, &c. from them for the French, and requested him (the witness) to accompany him. Having accepted the invitation, he immediately waited on Mr. Pitt, and discovered to him the whole of Mr. Jackson's plans. The minister thanked him for the information, and hinted that as the matter was to become a subject of legal investigation, it would be necessary for him to substantiate the allegations; but this Mr. Cockayne wished to decline, on the principle that, if the prisoner should be convicted of high treason he should lose by it 300*l.* in which sum he then was indebted to him. This objection was soon removed by Mr. Pitt agreeing to pay him the money, provided he would prosecute to conviction: and the witness accompanied Mr. Jackson to Ireland, for the purpose of making himself acquainted with his proceedings. Shortly after their arrival in Dublin, where they lived together, the prisoner expressed a wish to be introduced to Mr. Hamilton Rowan, who was then confined in Newgate; and at length, through the interference of a friend, he obtained an interview, at which

Mr. Cockayne was present. In the course of conversation, the prisoner delivered two papers to Mr. Rowan, for the purpose of convincing him that he was a person in whom he might confide. From that time an intimacy took place between them; the witness always accompanied Mr. Jackson in his visits to Mr. Rowan, and constantly took a part in their conversation. They agreed, he said, that a person should be sent to France to procure a force to make a descent on Ireland, and Counsellor Wolfe Tone was mentioned as a fit person for that purpose, who at first appeared to acquiesce, but afterwards declined the office. Dr. Reynolds was then proposed by Mr. Rowan, but objected to by the prisoner, as he did not understand the French language. It was, however, at length agreed the Doctor should take the embassy; but in a short time he also refused to enter into the business. On this it was agreed, that Mr. Jackson should write several letters, which were directed for a Mr. Stone, of the firm of Lawrence and Co. London. These contained inclosures for houses at Hamburgh and Amsterdam; and some of them, to the French agents, described the situation of Ireland at the time, invited an invasion, and pointed out the proper places to land. These letters having been sent to the post-office, the witness went to the secretary, and informed him of the subject of them, on which they were detained. The plot matured thus far, having been discovered, the prisoner was taken into custody. Such is the substance of the examination and cross examination of Mr. Cockayne, which, together with the documentary proofs alluded to, were the only evidence adduced. He appeared very much agitated and confused throughout the whole of the investigation. Mr. Curran and Mr. Ponsonby and Mr. M'Nally exerted their abilities in behalf of the prisoner. The former spoke at much length. He treated the conduct of Mr. Cockayne as extremely suspicious; and, from the pecuniary temptation thrown in his way to act the part he had done in the business, suggested to the jury that his evidence was entitled to very little credit. The prime Serjeant replied. Lord Chief Justice Clon-

mel delivered a very able and impartial charge to the jury, who retired at forty-five minutes after three in the morning, and at half past four brought in a verdict—guilty, but recommended the prisoner to mercy. The chier justice inquired of the Jury if they had any doubts on their minds, that led them to such recommendation? The foreman answered immediately, “No, my lord.” The jury would, in all probability, have acquitted the prisoner, had he not inadvertently acknowledged the letters, (which Mr. Cockayne swore to be his hand writing,) by explaining some mysterious passages in them. The witness’s agreement with Mr. Pitt would otherwise, it is said, have invalidated his evidence.

The jury were,—Mr. Alderman Exshaw, Messrs. Pentland, Crandfield, Humphrey, Cowan, Simon, Oldham, Donovan, Ward, Forster, Smith, and Hodgson. The trial lasted seventeen hours and a half. The judges, Clonmel, Boyd, and Chamberlain, consulted for a few moments. The Chief Justice then addressed the jury: “Gentlemen, you have acquitted yourselves with honour, and a conscientious regard for justice. It is more than a century since this land has been cursed with such a crime, and we trust your verdict will operate in preventing a repetition of it. Your recommendation shall be laid before government.” Mr. Jackson heard the verdict with much apparent composure. He was remanded to prison, and expected to receive the sentence of the law on the following Wednesday. On his being brought into court to receive judgment, on the 30th of April, the clerk of the crown having read the indictment against the prisoner, and the conviction thereon, and asked him the usual question—What he had to say, why judgment of death should not be passed upon him? Mr. Curran prayed that the caption of the indictment might be read, which being done, he objected that the court could not proceed to pass judgment, inasmuch as the copy of the caption of the indictment had not been served on the prisoner; and that the names of the grand jurors who found the bill of indictment were not set out in the record, and inasmuch as it did not appear what such grand jurors were sworn

to do. Mr. Ponsonby spoke to the same point, and was followed by Mr. Mac Nally. The Attorney-General said, that, if there were any objection on the part of the prisoner, going to the legality of finding the indictment, or to the competence of any of the grand jury who found the bill of indictment against the prisoner, or even to the sheriff, who impannelled the grand jury, it should have been made before he had pleaded to the indictment. It being intimated to the court that the prisoner at this time appeared to be in a very dangerous situation, in point of bodily weakness, having some time before, and from his first being brought into court, appeared to be uncommonly agitated—the court ordered, that if any medical gentlemen were present, they should examine into the situation of the prisoner, and report their opinion thereon. Doctor Waite, who was in the county jury-box, went down to the dock, and after examining the prisoner, reported that he was in a sinking situation, and had every appearance of immediate dissolution. Mr. Kingsley, druggist, who said he was bred an apothecary, also examined the prisoner, and reported that he was dying. On this the court ordered that the prisoner should be remanded until further orders; but, in a few moments, the unfortunate man expired in the dock. The court immediately adjourned. The coroner's inquest was held the next day, when surgeons Hume and Adrian opened the body, and deposed he died in consequence of having taken some acrid substance, but they could not tell what. His bowels and chest were greatly inflamed. In his pocket was a handkerchief, one of his pamphlets, and a very elegant short prayer, written by himself, praying to God to deliver him from his enemies, who were very great and violent. In a little box, left in the gaol, was only a miniature of his wife, and a letter from Mr. Ponsonby. He was brought into court in a very light pair of irons.

It has been questioned whether his days were terminated by suicide or treachery; but the editors of these volumes have reason to know that he was his own murderer. When he was brought into court to receive judgment Mr. Curran, his leading counsel, was not arrived.

Mr. Jackson beckoned counsellor M'Nally to him as he stood in the dock, to whom, on Mr. M'Nally saying there would be an arrest of judgment, moved, with a forced and dying smile, taking him by the hand, he replied, 'We have deceived the senate.'

This was in allusion to the dying exclamation of the conspirator Pierre to his friend, Jaffier, in Otway's fine tragedy of *Venice Preserved*.

Great as may be the oppression of the British empire, the fate of this man holds out a dreadful warning to those who seek to rectify internal abuse, by foreign arms. Traitors, from the very nature of their dark and secret plans, are necessarily constrained to depend on the secrecy of the most abandoned and profligate; and thus they are betrayed.

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JAMES SEMPLE, *alias* HARROLD, *alias* KENNEDY, *alias* LISLE,

*Transported at the February Sessions, 1795, held at the Old Bailey, for Theft.*

THIS accomplished swindler had borne commissions in the French and Austrian armies; but as the account he gave of himself on his defence at the Old Bailey is full and correct on this head, we shall immediately proceed to his first trial.

He was indicted for feloniously stealing, on the first of September, 1785, one chaise, called a post-chaise, with four-wheels, value fifty pounds, the property of John Lycett.

The charge of Judge Gould, who tried the prisoner, is so full and comprehensive on every part of the crime, that we cannot better give a report, than by quoting his speech, which was taken in short-hand:

*"Gentlemen of the Jury,*

*"The prisoner James Semple, otherwise Harrold, otherwise Kennedy, is indicted for stealing a post-chaise, of the value of fifty pounds, the property of John Lycett.*

I will state to you the evidence before I state to you the particular question you are to decide, and my opinion in point of law : John Lycett states to you that he is a coach-maker in Whitechapel, and also lets out carriages for hire," &c. (Here the learned judge summed up the evidence, and then added,) "Gentlemen the prisoner is indicted for feloniously stealing and carrying away this chaise ; that he took the chaise, that he had the chaise delivered to him by Lycett, and that it has not been returned to Lycett is clear beyond a doubt ; so far the facts are not disputed : the defence of the prisoner is, that though he had the chaise delivered to him, yet it being delivered to him by the owner of that chaise, and the property being transferred to him by the owner by sale ; it was intrusted to him, and can only be converted into a debt for the chaise : if the fact was so, it would be a good defence in point of law ; it may be dishonest from the probability of never being able to pay, if they had obtained a bona fide sale from the party to whom the property belongs : but it certainly is not a felony ; for it would be of dangerous consequence if there could be any doubt about that law ; but it is very clear in many cases, that though the actual manual property may be in the owner, yet in several cases it may be construed to a felonious taking in the party. The question for your decision upon this will be the intention of the parties, the prosecutor and the prisoner, at the time that the actual corporal possession of the chaise in question passed from one to the other ; for it seems to me it is upon that, that the law of this case must depend ; if it was understood between the parties, that the one was to become the purchaser, and the other the seller, though the chaise was carried off, and never paid for, though the consideration was never paid, there is no pretence to call it a felony ; and if you can be of opinion, from the circumstances proved to-day, that that was really the case, you will have no difficulty in acquitting the prisoner : on the other hand, if you believe what is said by the prosecutor, that the prisoner hired the chaise for a limited time, and carried it off altogether, and that although the prisoner has heard in the course of this trial, and though his counsel knew before hand that

it would be very material to account for this chaise, yet it is not accounted for at the distance of a twelve-month ; that is strong evidence for you to presume that the prisoner converted and disposed of this chaise in some way or other to his own use. The charge then of the prosecutor is, the hiring this chaise for a limited time by the prisoner, and his converting it to his own use instead of returning it. Now if there was a *bonâ fide* hiring on the part of the prisoner at the time, if he really took the chaise with intention of returning it, and paying for it at so much a week, or for the purpose of paying for it in a limited time ; though afterwards he by necessity, or from a wicked disposition, had converted it to his own use, yet still that conversion would not be a felony ; because by the *bonâ fide* contract at the time of delivery, and by the delivery by the rightful owner, he would have acquired lawful possession of the thing ; and therefore, though afterwards he abused that trust and that possession, it would be a felonious taking in the first instance : but if you are of opinion that the hiring was only a pretence made use of to induce the owner of the chaise to part with the possession, and without any intention ever to restore it, or pay for it ; in that case the owner never does part with the possession ; for he has agreed to let the prisoner a qualified use in the thing, under a certain sum to be paid for it, and the prisoner having no intention to make use of that qualified possession, cannot by that means obtain it. If therefore you are of opinion that the prisoner bought the chaise from Mr. Lycett, though he has never paid for it, and has acted fraudulently and improperly, if you think that he actually bought it, and there is an actual sale, and an actual agreement, and that Mr. Lycett trusted him with the chaise, and so parted with the possession of it, you will acquit the prisoner ; if you are of opinion that such was the intention of both parties at the time, though he might afterwards make a fraudulent use of it, it is not a felony : but if you believe Mr. Lycett's evidence, and think the hiring was only a colour to obtain possession of the chaise with a fraudulent intention to convert it to his own use, and not to return it to the owner, in that case I do not hesitate to tell you to find the prisoner

guilty ; because I do it in the presence of one of the most respectable authorities in the law, who will correct my opinion if it happens to be erroneous ; if you are of opinion that the hiring was never intended as a *bonâ fide* hiring, in that case the prisoner is guilty in point of law : You will ultimately decide the question upon the evidence that has been laid before you, which it is your particular province to judge of, and upon which I shall not give you any direction ; you are the proper judges of the evidence ; and, according to the opinion you shall form upon the facts as I have stated them to you, you will find a verdict of guilty or not guilty, according to the circumstances of the case."

They found the prisoner " Guilty."

*Court to Jury.* There is one point I wish to ask you, Have you given credit in your verdict to the account of the transaction as stated by Mr. Lycett the prosecutor ?

*Jury.* We give credit to Mr. Lycett's evidence.

*Court.* I perfectly agree with you in opinion.

Mr. Garrow and Mr. Agar, counsel for the prisoner, moved in arrest of judgment, but the learned judge arrested their arguments ; and then thus proceeded to pass sentence :

" I think it my indispensable duty to pronounce upon the prisoner that sentence which the Court is of opinion his case justly merits ; and if he has any hopes to mitigate that sentence, that application must be elsewhere : I am far from wishing to be understood as recommending that application, or as entertaining the least idea of its success. It now becomes my duty to pronounce on you the sentence that ought to follow on the verdict of the jury : you have been convicted upon evidence—

*Prisoner.* My lord, I only beg to observe, I believe it will be in my power to prove the prosecutor perjured ; I have already one affidavit to that purpose ; I have an affidavit of one witness, with whom Mr. Lycett has had a conversation concerning the sale of the carriages.

*Court.* The Court have no power to revise the verdict of the jury ; we are not competent or empowered by

the constitution, to enquire into any fact subsequent to that verdict : Your proofs must be laid before your sovereign, for his mercy. Your peculiar situation is very different from that of those unfortunate wretches who generally appear at that bar : A man in superior rank of life, who has had the education which you appear, both from your demeanor and the circumstances of your case, to have received ; and a man who enjoyed the advantages of associating with persons of rank and character through many years of your life ; these, far from being circumstances of mitigation, I consider as great aggravations ! When men, in the rank of gentlemen, possessing the means of education, and the benefits of society, which you have possessed, are led either by profligacy of manners, or a depraved mind, to throw away all those advantages, and to put themselves on the level of common offenders ; it is fit that they should receive as exemplary a punishment as the law can in such cases inflict. The sentence of the Court upon you is, that you James George Semple, otherwise Harrold, otherwise Kennedy, be transported for the term of seven years, beyond the seas, to such place as his Majesty, with the advice of his privy council, shall think proper to direct and appoint."

Major Semple was certainly banished the kingdom, for the term of his sentence, but not as it is termed, "beyond the seas ;" for we find him in exile, but serving, in a military capacity, foreign princes, which will be seen hereafter.

The next time we find him in public is again at the bar of the Old Bailey, in February sessions, 1795, near ten years after his former conviction, already described, on his trial, for stealing in the shop of Mr. Wattleworth, in Wigmore-street, one yard of muslin, two yards of calico, and one linen shirt.

It was proved that the prisoner came into the shop of Mr. Wattleworth, about noon, on the 10th of November, 1794, and shewing two patterns, one of muslin, and the other of calico, said he wanted them matched for Mrs. Coningham, of Egham-green. They could not find an exact match in the shop, to the muslin ; but he chose

one ; and a yard being cut off, and two yards of calico, he said he would give them to the lady's servant, then at the door, and calling in a man, gave them to him. He then asked if Mr. Wattleworth was at home, saying, he wanted some shirts ; as he was shewing him some, Mr. Wattleworth came in, on which the witness left them together, but afterwards came and took his name as Lieutenant Colonel Lisle, which he entered in a book, and reading that as well as Mrs. Coningham's at Egham-green, to whom the muslin and calico was set down, the prisoner replied it was very right.

Mr. Wattleworth confirmed Tood's testimony, as to his coming in while he was serving the prisoner, and then said, that the Major stated himself to have just arrived from the continent, and that he should want a quantity of shirts, and wished to take one with him to consult his sister, who, he thought, would be a better judge of the linen than he was ; that he would bring it back in the morning, and then give his order. This sister he called Coningham, and as the witness had a customer of that name, he made no hesitation, but gave him the shirt under those conditions. This happened in November ; but he never saw the prisoner again until January, when he was in custody in Bow-street.

In his cross-examination, he admitted, that he had credited a Mrs. Coningham for the muslin and calico ; but that he had afterwards made every enquiry at Egham, without being able to find that any such person lived there. He also admitted, that after the major was in custody, some person came and asked him, if the articles were paid for or returned, whether he would forbear appearing against the prisoner : but he would not say by whose authority that person came.

This was the whole of the case, and the counsel for the prisoner contended that they had not made out the charge of the felony, the evidence, if true, amounting only to that of obtaining goods under false pretences ; for they had even admitted, they gave credit to Mrs. Coningham, for the muslin and calico ; and as for the shirt, it ap-

peared he had been trusted with that, and it remained for the jury to be convinced he had an intention of not returning it at the time he was so trusted, before they could possibly convict him.

Mr. Justice Buller, who tried the cause, admitted the counsel was perfectly right as to the calico and muslin, for it had been repeatedly so decided in various cases by the whole of the judges; but he did not agree with him in respect to the shirt, and therefore should leave it to the jury.

The major being called upon for his defence, begged permission to read a few words which he had put to paper, fearful his embarrassed situation might otherwise prevent him from saying what he wished. This paper stated, that he did not mean to deny he had unfortunately been in that place before, but some of the public prints had so misrepresented facts, that he had reason to fear the minds of the public might be so far prejudiced against him, as to suppose he had spent his whole life in making depredations; to prove that this was not true, he begged to shew how his latter time had passed.

On going abroad, he found the French engaged in a war, fighting, as he thought, for freedom; he entered their service, and was soon honoured with rank in their army.

This, however, at much hazard, he quitted, on their declaring war against this country, and went over to the Austrians, with whom he, for some time, served as a volunteer.

The commander noticing his exertions, gave him a commission of no small rank, in which he continued until he was recognized by some British officers, and it was instantly circulated through the army, that he was the convicted Semple, he having taken upon himself the name of Lisle.

On this he was obliged to quit that service; but still willing and desirous to serve, he went towards the Rhine, and obtained a commission under the Hereditary Prince.

He had not, however, been long here, when a British officer sent to the commandant, that he had been con-

demned to transportation, without stating that the time had expired.

Being thus suspected of being a run-away felon, he was taken into custody by the police, and confined in a prison for more than five weeks, without even the permission of pen and ink.

The fact being cleared up, he was set at liberty, but not without losing his situation; he again, however, went into the field, and was twice wounded.

This induced him to return home, and he sent a letter to Mr. Dundas, a copy of which he desired might be read; but the court thinking it irrelevant, it was not admitted.

He then concluded, that he had been thus persecuted, because he was Major Semple, and which had also brought him to that bar on that day, upon a charge of which he was totally innocent.

Mr. Justice Buller recapitulated the evidence, and then explained the point of law, which, he said, was certainly in the prisoner's favour, as far as related to the muslin and calico; but it was not so with the shirt, for he not having bargained for that, nor any price being fixed on by the prosecutor, he could not be said to have given him credit for it; therefore, if they were convinced he took it away intending not return it, that, as Mr. Justice Gould had formerly explained, would be an intent to steal it, and in that case they must find him guilty.

The jury, after near half an hour's consideration, brought in a verdict, "Guilty of taking the shirt, under false pretences."

This, the judge explained, was no verdict; on which, in a few minutes, they pronounced him "Guilty of stealing the shirt—Not guilty upon the charge of the muslin and calico."

James George Semple, alias Lisle, was put to the bar at the Old Bailey, on the 21st, and received sentence of transportation to such parts beyond the seas, as his Majesty with the advice of his Privy Council, should think fit.

The Major was dressed in his uniform: after sentence

he bowed very respectfully, but did not speak, and appeared to be perfectly reconciled to his fate.

It was said, that pursuant to this sentence, he was actually sent to Botany-bay, but has since been seen lurking about the streets of London.

This we know to be a fact: a tradesman in New Bond-street, a few years ago, had been tricked by the major out of the paltry sum of two shillings, under a plea of having left his purse at home, and wanting payment for the postage of a foreign letter, which he pretended to hold in his hand.

This person saw no more of Semple, till the time last named, when he met him in the street, and the mean cheat recurring to his mind, he insisted on re-payment. Semple fled, but was soon overtaken: he swore he had no money about him; but the other persisted; and a mob gathering around them, he soon discharged the long-standing debt, and escaped their resentment, by a precipitate retreat.

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### JAMES O'COIGLEY,

*Executed on Penningdon Heath, June 7, 1798, for High Treason.*

THE solemn, impressive, dying declaration of this unfortunate gentleman, must create distress in the mind of every reader.

We have frequently shewn, that obdurate and ignorant criminals have died in a declaration of innocence, when crimes have been proved against them, beyond the very shadow of doubt; but when a man, born and educated a gentleman, a scholar, after receiving the last sacrament, appeals to his God, before whom, he is about to stand, avows to the surrounding multitude, gathered together to witness his untimely end, his perfect and intire innocence, charity obliges us to question his guilt.

The times in which he suffered were dangerous to the constitution of the kingdom.

There were then, both in England, Ireland, and Scotland, many disaffected men, the leaders of parties, assembling for purposes inimical to the public welfare.

In cases of this nature, the public mind is in a state of alarm, and the accused are immediately considered as guilty, an inward detestation is felt in every loyal breast ; and hence the minds of jurymen must also feel a strong bias against them, which may have unfortunately been the case in the present instance.

We offer these observations as a tribute of charity to the departed man ; but his best friends must certainly admit that suspicion might well fall upon any man thus connected with Arthur O'Conner, an apostate Irishman, who certainly attempted to sell his country to the foe ; and is now high in rank in the service of the tyrant Buonaparte.

Such was the ill fate of O'Coigley ; who, together with the above-named O'Conner, John Binns, John Allen, and Jeremiah Leary, were arraigned at the Lent assizes for Kent, in the year 1798, of whom O'Coigley alone was found guilty ; sufficient proof, however guilty the remainder in conscience were, not being adduced to convict them.

The indictment was read by Mr. Knapp, who afterwards stated the charges it contained in a summary manner. • He said there were three distinct species of treason charged in the indictment, and seven overt-acts. The first treason was compassing and imagining the death of the king : the second, was adhering to his enemies : the third, was compassing and imagining, inventing, devising, and intending to move and stir certain foreigners and strangers, that is to say, the persons exercising the powers of government in France, to invade this kingdom.

The first overt act was, conspiring to levy war at Margate, in the county of Kent : the second overt-act, sending intelligence to the enemy : the other overt-acts were, attempts to hire vessels, and to leave the kingdom.

The trial lasted two days. A pocket-book had been found in O'Coigley's great-coat, in which a paper was

found addressed to the Executive Directory of France, from the Secret Committee of England.

O'Coigley, in his defence, addressed the jury as follows :

" It is impossible for me to prove a negative ; but it is a duty I owe to you, and to myself, solemnly to declare, that I never was the bearer of any message or paper of this kind to France, in the course of my life. That paper is not mine ; it never belonged to me. It states that it was to be carried by the bearer of the last ; this is something which might have been proved, but it is impossible for me to prove the negative. There is also in this paper an allusion to secret committees and political societies. I declare that I never attended any political society whatever. With these considerations, I consign my life to your justice ; not doubting but that you will conduct yourselves as English jurymen ever do, and that your verdict will be such as shall receive the approbation of your own conscience, your country, and your God."

The jury, after about half an hour's consideration, found O'Coigley " Guilty," and acquitted the other prisoners.

Mr. Justice Buller, in an address to O'Coigley, which he read from a written paper, previous to his passing the sentence, observed, that he had been clearly convicted of the most atrocious crime which could be committed in any country—that of meditating the destruction of a Sovereign, who was one of the best, the most just, upright, and amiable of princes that ever graced a throne ; and he could not conceive what were the motives which could actuate any man, even to wish for the death of such, who had ever been the father of his people.

The prisoner was also found guilty of conspiring to overturn the constitution of these kingdoms ; a constitution which, from the experiment of years, had been found to be the best calculated of any that ever existed in the world, to insure the liberty, security, and happiness, of the people who lived under it.

These atrocious crimes became still greater from the manner in which they were intended to be perpetrated—

that of inviting a foreign enemy to come and invade, and conquer these countries.

Those people, who had thought such an event a desirable one, ought to think seriously what the consequences of it would be, provided it was possible to be accomplished. Did they suppose that, (desperate as their present situation might be) their condition would be bettered by having their country put into the possession of people who were holding out the delusive hopes of what they called liberty to other nations? Could such persons hope that they themselves should enjoy liberty, even supposing the conquerors to have enjoyed as free a constitution as any in the world? No, they would become suspected, be despised, and destroyed by them.

A celebrated writer (Montesquieu) very justly observed upon this subject, that a country conquered by a democratic nation always enjoyed less liberty, was more miserable, and more enslaved, than if that country happened to have been conquered by a nation whose government was monarchial. But if there was any illustration of this observation wanting, one had only to look to the conduct of the French at this moment towards Holland, Italy, Switzerland, and every other country they had conquered. His lordship believed that the prisoner might have been actuated by motives similar to those which used formerly to induce many people to think that the killing of men of a different religion would give them a claim to canonization. But though the motives be similar, the subjects connected with them were very different. In the present times, he did not believe that any person entertained such sentiments about religion. On the contrary, he was sorry to find that religion was too much neglected, and that the peace and tranquillity of numbers of people were destroyed in consequence of having lost all belief of the existence of a Divine Providence, and totally abandoned all hopes of a future state. He was afraid that the prisoner had been infected with this infidelity, and if he was, he (the judge) prayed that the Almighty God, in his infinite mercy and goodness, would change his heart, and cause him to repent of his sins.

His lordship then, in a solemn and awful manner, passed the following sentence :

“ That the prisoner be taken from the bar to prison, and from thence to the place of execution ; there to be hanged, but not until he be dead, to be cut down while yet alive, and then to have his heart and bowels taken out and burnt before his face ; his head to be severed from his body ; and his body to be divided into four quarters.”

Mr. O’Coigley listened to this address and sentence with attention, but at the same time with the greatest coolness. He bowed his head when the judge concluded ; his countenance expressing at once resignation and firmness.

Immediately after the sentence was passed on O’Coigley, Mr. O’Conner, supposing himself at liberty, attempted to withdraw, when a warrant was served on him on another charge of high treason, signed by the Duke of Portland, and dated March 22. On this some swords were drawn, and a general confusion ensued, when Mr. O’Conner addressed the court to this effect : “ My Lord, I am surrounded with drawn swords,—I am prepared to die ; and it would be better for the court to doom me to death at once, than that I should linger out my life in a gaol.—Have the goodness to send me to the dungeon where my brother is in confinement, after having been acquitted on a charge of high treason in Ireland. At all events, will your lordships order that my agent may be permitted to come to me ?”

The court said they could make no order—their commission ended with the trial.

O’Coigley on Wednesday, June 6, 1798, between four and five in the afternoon, received information that he was to die the next day, without apparent emotion. He spent the evening very calmly. He had but one thing, he said, on his mind which created any anxiety ; that was, an apprehension that he might be misrepresented after his death. He was anxious to be faithfully reported, and that was all he wanted. On Thursday, at a quarter past eleven o’clock, O’Coigley left the gaol. He was dressed all in

black, his hair was cropped and powdered, his shirt-collar open, and he wore no neck-cloth. His elbows were tied behind with ropes, and over his shoulder was the rope with which he was executed. He stepped into the hurdle, and on his sitting down a chain was put round his waist to fasten him. The executioner sat opposite to him. He had nothing on his head. He continued all the way earnestly reading a prayer-book. Mr. Watson, the gaoler, followed the hurdle, which was surrounded by above 200 of the Maidstone volunteers. The deputy sheriff, and the Rev. Mr. Griffiths followed. The whole was preceded by about 20 javelin-men. The hurdle was drawn up close in front of the gallows on Penningdon-heath, and the horses were taken out. The military formed a small square. The prisoner being unchained, he rose up and stood in the hurdle, and read two prayers, one of them aloud in Latin. He then took out of his pocket an orange, and also a pen-knife, but being unable to cut the orange, from his hands being bound, he gave it to a friend, whom he beckoned to come near him; saying, "Open this orange with my pen-knife; it has been said, they would not trust me with a pen-knife, lest I should cut my throat; but they little knew that I would not deprive myself of the glory of dying in this way." He desired his friend to keep the pen-knife for his sake, and to hold the orange, several pieces of which he eat. After finishing his devotions, the clergyman gave him absolution, to whom he returned the prayer-book; and having ascended the platform, he took farewell of the gaoler, thanking him for the many civilities he had shewn him. On his being tied up to the gallows, he made the following speech:

"I shall only here solemnly declare, that I am innocent of the charge for which I suffer. I never was in my life the bearer of any letter, or other paper or message, printed, written, or verbal, to the directory of France, nor to any person on their behalf; neither was I ever a member of the London Corresponding Society, or of any other political society in Great Britain; nor did I ever attend any of their meetings, public or private—so help me God! I know not whether I shall be believed here in what I say,

but I am sure I shall be believed in the world to come. It can scarcely be supposed, that one like me, in this situation, going to eternity, before the most awful tribunal, would die with a falsehood in his mouth; and I do declare, by the hopes I confidently feel of salvation, and happiness in a future state, that my life is falsely and maliciously taken away by corrupt and base perjury, and subornation of perjury, in some cases proceeding from mistake, no doubt, but in others from design.—Almighty God forgive all my enemies!—I beg of you to pray that God will grant me grace—for I have many sins to answer for, but they are the sins of my private life, and not the charge for which I now die.” (raising his voice) “ Lord have mercy on me, and receive my soul !”

A white night-cap was then drawn over his face, and he made a signal by dropping a handkerchief. The board was then let down, as at Newgate, and he remained suspended for twelve or thirteen minutes; he was then taken down, the head taken off by a surgeon, and the executioner held up the head to the populace, saying, “ This is the head of a Traitor !” Both head and body were then put into a shell, and buried at the foot of the gallows.

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## GEORGE WALDRON, *alias* BARRINGTON,

(THE GENTLEMAN-PICKPOCKET,)

*Several times convicted—Sentenced twice to hard labour on the Thames—And finally, on September 27, 1798, transported to Botany Bay.*

PERHAPS never splendid talents were more perverted than by that notorious character, so well known as George Barrington. We could scarcely believe that even in the melancholy catalogue of crimes, a man, of excellent education and accomplished manners, could be found descending to the degraded character of a pickpocket.

George Waldron (alias Barrington) was born at a

village called Maymooth, in the county of Kildare, Ireland.

His father, Henry Waldron, was a working silversmith; and his mother, whose maiden name was Naith, was a mantua-maker, and occasionally a midwife. His parents though not affluent, had him instructed in reading and writing, at an early age; afterwards, through the bounty of a medical gentleman, in the neighbourhood, he was taught common arithmetic, the elements of geography, and English grammar.

When sixteen years of age, he was noticed and patronized by a dignitary in the church of Ireland, who placed him at a free grammar school, and intended him for the university; however, he forfeited this gentleman's favour by his ill conduct at school, having, in a quarrel, stabbed one of his school-fellows with a pen-knife. For this vindictive act he was well flogged; in consequence of which he ran away from school, in 1771, having previously found means to steal ten or twelve guineas from his master, and a gold repeating watch from his master's sister. He walked all night till he arrived at an obscure inn at Drogheda, where he happened to meet and become acquainted with a company of strolling players, whose manager was one John Price, an abandoned character; who having been convicted of a fraud in London, was an involuntary exile in Ireland, until the expiration of the term for which he was sentenced to be transported.

He now engaged our fugitive, who, in consequence, adopted the name of Barrington, as one of his performers, and who, it seems, became the hero of his company.—While performing the character of Jaffier, in "*Venice Preserved*," he made a conquest of the tender Belvidera, (Miss Egerton) and to the credit of Barrington it must be acknowledged, that he took no mean advantage of her passion, but returned it with perfect sincerity.

The company being now reduced by the expences of travelling, &c. to extreme indigence, Price, the manager, prevailed upon Barrington to undertake the profession of a pick-pocket, which business he commenced in the summer of the year 1771, having then renounced the stage.

He soon after lost his faithful Miss Egerton, who was drowned, in the eighteenth year of her age, in crossing the river Boyne, through the culpable negligence of a ferryman.

He then commenced what is called a gentleman pick-pocket, by affecting the airs and importance of a man of fashion; but was so much alarmed at the detection and conviction of his preceptor Price, (who was sentenced to transportation for seven years) that he hastened to Dublin, where he practised his pilfering art during dark evenings.

At one of the races in the county of Carlow, he was detected picking the pocket of Lord B. but on restoring the property, this nobleman declined any prosecution, and Barrington accordingly left Ireland, and for the first time appeared in England in 1773. On his first visit to Ranelagh with a party, he left his friends, and picked the pockets of the Duke of L. and Sir W. of a considerable sum; and also took from a lady a watch, with all which he got off undiscovered and rejoined his friends.

In 1775, he visited the most celebrated watering places, particularly Brighton, and being supposed a gentleman of fortune and family, was noticed by persons of the first distinction.

On his return to London, he formed a connexion with one Lowe, and became a more daring pick-pocket. He went to court on the queen's birth-day, as a clergyman, and not only picked several pockets, but found means to deprive a nobleman of his diamond order, and retired from the place without suspicion. It is said that this booty was disposed of to a Dutch Jew.

Count Orlov, the Russian minister, being in one of the boxes of Drury-lane playhouse, was robbed of a gold snuff-box, set with diamonds, estimated to be worth an immense sum; and one of the count's attendants suspecting Barrington, seized him, and found the snuff-box in his possession. He was examined by Sir John Fielding, but the count, being in a foreign country, was influenced by motives of delicacy to decline a prosecution.

Being soon after in the house of lords, when an appeal

of an interesting nature was to come on, a Mr. G. recognized his person, and applying to the deputy usher of the black rod, he was disgracefully turned out. He now threatened Mr. G. with revenge, upon which a warrant was granted to bind him over to keep the peace; and as he could find no surety, he was obliged to go to Tothill-fields prison-bridewell, where he remained some time.

On being released, he returned to his old profession, and was about three months after convicted of picking the pocket of Mrs. Dudman, at Drury-lane Theatre, and was sentenced to three years hard labour on the Thames.

Hitherto our pickpocket hero had a faithful confederate in the execution of his plans of robbery. This help-mate was a Miss West, of nearly equal notoriety as a sharpening courtesan.

Barrington being now safely confined on board the hulk at Woolwich, his associate and friend, Miss West, was compelled to plan and execute alone: not that she found herself at any mighty loss; but the forcible impression made on her feelings by the loss of so near a favourite, oppressed her spirits, and rendered dormant, for a short time, that inherent vigour for active life, which she had hitherto constantly displayed.

To soothe the gloomy hours of captivity as much as possible, she constantly sent Mr. Barrington two guineas per week, and paid him personal visits as often as opportunity would permit.

In one of these excursions she fell into the company of David Brown Dignum, another convict of notoriety, and who having plenty of cash, was selected as a proper object for the display of this lady's talents; and she actually perpetrated the deed in the midst of the seat of punishment, and congratulated herself not a little on the brilliancy of her success. But Barrington, who always strongly supported the common maxim, "that there is honesty among thieves" compelled her to restore the plunder; though much against her inclination.

This audacious woman was, in all, tried seven times at the Old Bailey; four of which she was acquitted, and found guilty the other three.

The last public offence she committed, was on the 14th of February, 1777, when she robbed Gilbert Affleck, Esq. of a watch chain, and seals, value 8l. and was detected in endeavouring to hand it to an associate, disguised with a black patch over his eyes. She was found guilty by the jury, and sentenced to three years imprisonment in Newgate.

About the expiration of her time, she caught the gaol distemper; and died in a fortnight after her discharge had taken place—thus yielding up her last breath, in perfect conformity with the infamous tenor of her life.

After sustaining something less than a twelvemonth's punishment, Barrington was again set at liberty, in consequence of his good behaviour, through the interference of Messrs. Erskine and Duncan Campbell, the superintendants of the convicts.

A few days after his release, he went to St. Sepulchre's church, when Dr. Milne was to preach a charity sermon, for the benefit of the society for the recovery of persons apparently drowned. William Payne, a constable, saw him put his hand into a lady's pocket in the south aisle, and presently after followed him out of the church, and took him into custody near the end of Cock-lane, upon Snow-hill.

Having taken the prisoner to St. Sepulchre's watch-house, and found a gold watch, and some other articles, in his possession, Payne returned to the church, and spoke to the lady whom he had seen the prisoner attempt to rob; she informed him she had lost nothing, for expecting the church to be much crowded, she had taken the precaution of emptying her pockets before she left her house. Upon Payne's return to the watch-house, a gentleman advised that the prisoner might be more strictly searched. He was desired to take off his hat, and raising his left arm, he cautiously removed his hat from his head, when a metal watch dropped upon the floor. He was now obliged to pull off the greatest part of his clothes. He wore three pair of breeches, in one of the pockets of which was found a purse, containing thirteen guineas, and a bank note for 10l. made payable to himself.

In consequence of an advertisement inserted the next day in the newspapers, Mrs. Ironmonger came to Payne's house, and described the watch she had lost; and it proved to be that which had been concealed in Barrington's hair, and dropped on the floor when he took off his hat. She attended the examination of the prisoner, and having sworn that the watch produced by Payne was her property, was bound over to prosecute.

Upon his trial, Barrington made a long, an artful, and a plausible defence. He said, that upon leaving the church, he perceived the watch mentioned in the indictment lying upon the ground, and took it up, intending to advertise it the next day; that he was followed to Snow-hill by Payne and another constable, who apprehended him, and had, in all probability seen him take up the watch. "I reflected (said he) that how innocently soever I might have obtained the article in question, yet it might cause some censure; and no one would wonder, considering the unhappy predicament I stood in,\* that I should conceal it as much as possible." The jury having pronounced the prisoner guilty, he addressed the court, earnestly supplicating that he might be permitted to enter into his Majesty's service, and promising to discharge his trust with fidelity and attention; or if he could not be indulged in that request, he wished that his sentence might be banishment for life from his Majesty's dominions.

The court informed him, that by an application to the throne, he might obtain a mitigation of his sentence, if his case was attended by such circumstances of extenuation as would justify him in humbly petitioning to be considered as an object of the royal favour.

He requested that the money and bank-note might be returned. Hereupon the court observed, that, in consequence of his conviction, the property found on him when he was apprehended, became vested in the hands of the sheriffs of the city of London, who had discretionary power either to comply with, or reject his request.

He was again sentenced to labour on the Thames, for the space of five years, on Tuesday the 5th of April, 1778.

\* Alluding to his former conviction.

About the middle of this year, he was accordingly removed to the hulks at Woolwich, where having attracted the notice of a gentleman, who exerted his influence in his favour, he again procured his release, on condition of his leaving England; to this Barrington gladly consented, and was generously supplied with money by this gentleman. He now went to Dublin, where he was soon apprehended for picking the pocket of an Irish nobleman of his gold watch and money, at the theatre, but was acquitted for want of evidence.

Here, however, was his first display of elocution; for having received a serious admonition from the judge, he addressed the court with considerable animation, and enlarged with great ingenuity, upon what he termed the force of prejudice, insinuating that calumny had followed him from England to Ireland.

On his acquittal, however, he deemed it most prudent to leave Dublin; he therefore visited Edinburgh, where being suspected, he was obliged to decamp. He now returned to London, and braving danger, frequented the theatres, opera-house, pantheon, &c. but was at length taken into custody. Having been acquitted for want of evidence for the charge brought against him, he was unexpectedly detained for having returned to England in violation of the condition on which his Majesty was pleased to grant him a remission of his punishment, and was accordingly confined in Newgate, during the remainder of the time that he was originally to have served on the river Thames.

On the expiration of his captivity, he returned to his former practices, but with greater caution.

Barrington was detected, in St. Paul's cathedral, picking the pocket of Mrs. Montague, of two guineas and seven shillings: he was taken to the Crown, in St. Paul's Church-yard; where, asking leave of the constable that had him in custody, to go into the yard, he got over the wall into Paternoster-row, and effected an escape.

Soon afterwards he got into company with John Brown, Esq. of Brentford, and while he was in conversation with him, picked his pocket of forty guineas, a gold watch, and

seals ; with this booty he made shift to live till he was apprehended for robbing Elizabeth Ironmonger.

He was at length apprehended for picking the pocket of Mr. Le Mesurier, at Drury-lane play-house, but effected his escape from the constable ; and while the lawyers were outlawing him, and the constables endeavouring to take him, he evaded detection by travelling in various disguises and characters through the northern counties of the kingdom ; he visited the great towns as a quack doctor, clergyman, rider, &c. but was at last apprehended in Newcastle upon Tyne, and removed to London by a writ of Habeas Corpus.

He now employed counsel, and had the outlawry against him reversed. He was then tried for robbing Mr. Le Mesurier, and acquitted for the want of a material witness. Even this narrow escape did not intimidate this daring character : he had the effrontery to proceed from prison once more to his native country, Ireland. He soon, however, found Dublin by no means so rich a harvest as London, but he did not quit the former until the officers of justice were again at his heels.

It is now high time to come to the crime for which he was transported ; but in so doing, we must, for want of room, pass over his many nimble tricks, and hair breadth escapes.

He was at length indicted for picking the pocket of Henry Hare Townsend, Esq. of a gold watch. The fact was fully proved ; but in order to give our readers a specimen of his abilities in pleading, we shall insert the outline of the speech he made in his defence :

“ May it please your Lordship, and you, Gentlemen of the Jury,

“ To favour me with your attention for a little time. The situation of every person who has the misfortune to stand here is extremely distressing and awkward ; mine is so in a peculiar degree : if I am totally silent, it may be considered perhaps as a proof of guilt, and if I presume

to offer those arguments which present themselves to my mind, in my defence, they may not, perhaps, be favoured with that attention which they might deserve ; yet I by no means distrust the candour and benevolence of the jury, and therefore I beg leave to proceed to state the circumstances of the case as they occur to me, not doubting but they will meet with some degree of credit, notwithstanding the various reports to my prejudice.

“ It appears that Mr. Townsend being at the races at Barnet, was robbed of his watch ; and that he turned to me, saying, ‘ Your name is Barrington, and you have taken my watch.’ It told him he was right as to my name, but he accused me unjustly : however I would go any where with him ; I was removed from thence to a stand, from whence the races were viewed ; it consisted of two booths, and they were separated from each other with only a railing elbow high ; and it is a great misfortune to me, gentlemen of the jury, that you were not able to observe the situation of those booths ; for if you had, you would have found it nearly impossible that some circumstances which have come from the witnesses could be true ; I was close to the railing that separated the two booths, and some person said, “ Here is a watch ! ” This watch Mr. Townsend claimed, and said it was his. I was removed from thence to the Angel at Edmonton, where the examination took place, and I am very sorry to be under the necessity of observing that a very material difference has taken place in the depositions delivered that day before the magistrates in various respects. A witness, the coachman, positively declared that he did not see this watch in my hand, that he did not see me take it from my pocket, that he did not see it drop from the person, but that he saw it on the ground, and he might have gone so far as to say he saw it fall ; I took the liberty of asking him one question, Whether he had seen this watch in my hand, or whether he had seen it fall from me ? He declared he did not. I then asked him, whether he could take upon himself to swear, from the situation he stood in at the adjoining booth, that this watch might not have dropped from some other person. He declared he could not observe any such thing.

—Gentlemen, with respect to the evidence of Kendrick, he made the same declaration then. Mr. Townsend has brought me here, under the charge of having committed felony ; he has told you, gentlemen of the jury, that he lost a watch out of his pocket, and that pocket is a waistcoat pocket ; that he was in a very extraordinary situation ; that he was on the race ground, where certainly the greatest decorum is not always observed ; and he was also in a situation which exposed him more to the pressure he complained of, than any other person ; for instead of his horse being in the possession of his jockey or groom, he attended it himself ; and I must beg leave to observe, gentlemen of the jury, that it is a custom where people bet money at races, to wish to see the horse immediately after the heat is over ; so that the pressure which Mr. Townsend had, or what he thought he had from me, could not appear very extraordinary ; and I am under the necessity of saying, his fancy has rather been improved on the occasion. With respect, gentlemen, to the last witness that has appeared, I will say nothing on the occasion ; that will rest entirely upon you. It was a circumstance, however, of a most extraordinary nature, that this person should never come forward till the present moment ; and whether the contradictions and strange accounts she has given of herself, are such as to entitle her to any credit, particularly in a situation where the life or liberty of another is at stake—where much pains have been taken to defame, some pains may be surely allowed to abate that defamation. Gentlemen, that it has been the hard lot of some unhappy persons, to have been convicted of crimes they did really not commit, less through evidence than ill-natured report, is doubtless certain : and doubtless there are many respectable persons now in court, fully convinced of the truth of that observation. Such times, it is to be hoped, are past ; I dread not such a conviction in my own person ; I am well convinced of the noble nature of a British court of justice ; the dignified and benign principles of its judges ; and the liberal and candid spirit of its jurors.

“ Gentlemen, life is the gift of God, and liberty its

greatest blessing: the power of disposing of both, or either, is the greatest man can enjoy. It is also advantageous, that, great as that power is, it cannot be better placed than in the hands of an English jury; for they will not exercise it like tyrants, who delight in blood, but like generous and brave men, who delight to spare rather than to destroy! and who, not forgetting they are men themselves, lean, when they can, to the side of compassion. It may be thought, gentlemen of the jury, that I am applying to your passions, and if I had the power to do it, I would not fail to employ it: the passions animate the heart; to the passions we are indebted for the noblest actions; and to the passions we owe our dearest and finest feelings; and when it is considered the mighty power you now possess, whatever leads to a cautious and tender discharge of it, must be thought of great consequence;—as long as the passions conduct us on the side of benevolence, they are our best, our safest, and our most friendly guides.

“Gentlemen of the jury, Mr. Townsend has deposed that he lost his watch, but how, I trust, is by no means clear; I trust, gentlemen, you will consider the great, the almost impossibility, that having had the watch in my possession for so long a time, time sufficient to have concealed it in a variety of places, to have conveyed it to town, it should still be in my possession. You have heard from Mr. Townsend that there was an interval, of at least half an hour between the time of losing the watch, and my being taken into custody: there is something, gentlemen, impossible in the circumstance; and, on the other hand, it has sometimes happened, that remorse, a generous remorse, has struck the minds of persons in such a manner, as to have induced them to surrender themselves into the hands of justice, rather than an innocent person should suffer. It is not, therefore, I suppose, improbable, that if Mr. Townsend lost his watch, by an act of felony, the person who had the watch in his possession, feeling for the situation of an unhappy man, might be induced to place that watch on the ground. But it is by no means certain how Mr. Townsend lost his watch, whether by an act of felony, or whether by accident, it might have fallen into

the hands of some other person, and that person, feeling for my unhappy situation, might have been induced to restore it.

“ I humbly hope that the circumstances of the case are such as may induce a scrupulous jury to make a favourable decision ; and I am very well convinced that you will not be led by any other circumstances than those of the present case ; either from reports or former misfortunes, or by the fear of my falling into similar ones. I am now just thirty-two years of age, (shall be so next month) ; it is nearly half the life of man, it is not worth while being impatient to provide for the other half, so far as to do any thing unworthy.

“ Gentlemen, in the course of my life I have suffered much distress, I have felt something of the vicissitudes of fortune, and now from observation, I am convinced, upon the whole, there is no joy but what arises from the practice of virtue, and consists in the felicity of a tranquil mind and a benevolent heart ; sources of consolation which the most prosperous circumstances do not always furnish, and which may be felt under the most indigent.

“ It will be my study, gentlemen, to possess them ; nor will the heaviest affliction of poverty, pain, or disgrace, cause me to part with resolutions founded on the deepest reflection, and which will end but with life ; I will perish on the pavement before I will deviate from them. For my own part, whatever your verdict may be, I trust I shall be enabled to meet it with firmness of mind ; he indeed has little to fear from death, whose fame is tarnished, and who has endured the ceaseless abuse of unfeeling minds ; when heaven accepts contrition, it receives into favour when it pardons : but man, more cruel than his Maker, pursues his offending brother with unrelenting severity, and marks a deviation from rectitude with a never dying infamy, and with unceasing suspicion and reproach, which seem to exclude him from the pale of virtue.

“ Gentlemen of the jury, though the thought of death may appal the rich and prosperous, but on the other hand the unfortunate cannot have much to fear from it ; yet the tenderness of nature cannot be quite subdued by the

utmost degree of human resolution, and I cannot be insensible to the woes which must be felt by an affectionate companion, and an infant offspring, and there is besides, a principle in human nature, stronger even than the fear of death, and which can hardly fail to operate some time or other in life ; I mean the desire of good fame, under that laudable influence.

“ Gentlemen, if I am acquitted, I will quickly retire to some distant land, where my name and misfortunes will be alike unknown ; where harmless manners may shield me from the imputation of guilt, and where prejudice will not be liable to misrepresentation, and I do now assure you, gentlemen of the jury, that I feel a cheering hope, even at this awful moment, that the rest of my life will be so conducted, as to make me as much an object of esteem and applause, as I am now the unhappy object of censure and suspicion.”

The jury, however, instantly found him guilty. .

On Wednesday, September 22, 1798, George Barrington was set to the bar.

*Mr. Recorder.* George Barrington : the sentence of the Court upon you, is, that you be transported for the term of seven years, to parts beyond the seas, to such place as his Majesty, with the advice of his privy council, shall think fit to declare and appoint.

To which Barrington replied,

“ My Lord,

“ I had a few words to say, why sentence of death should not be passed upon me ; I had much to say, though I shall say but little on the occasion. Notwithstanding I have the best opinion of your lordship’s candour, and have no wish or pleasure in casting a reflection on any person whatever ; but I cannot help observing that it is the strange lot of some persons through life, that with the best wishes, the best endeavours, and the best intentions, they are not able to escape the envenomed tooth of calumny : whatever they say or do is so twisted and perverted from the reality, that they will meet with censures and misfortunes, where perhaps they were entitled to suc-

cess and praise. The world, my lord, has given me credit for much more abilities than I am conscious of, possessing; but the world should also consider that the greatest abilities may be obstructed by the mercenary nature of some unfeeling minds, as to render them entirely useless to the possessor. Where was the generous and powerful man that would come forward and say, 'You have some abilities which might be of service to yourself and to others, but you have much to struggle with, I feel for your situation, and will place you in a condition to try the sincerity of your intentions; and as long as you act with diligence and fidelity, you shall not want for countenance and protection?' But, my lord, the die is cast! I am prepared to meet the sentence of the court, with respectful resignation, and the painful lot assigned me, I hope, with becoming resolution."

Barrington, as he had promised in his last speech, underwent his sentence with submission. His good conduct on his long passage to Botany-bay, had gained the friendship and confidence of his officers. He was the means of subduing a mutiny on board, by which he most likely saved many of his fellow-creatures from being massacred.

On his arrival at Port Jackson, he was appointed superintendant of convicts at Paramatta; in which situation his exemplary attention to his duty testified the sincerity of his reformation, and rendered him a useful member of society for the remainder of his life.

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### SAMUEL BURR,

*Convicted of a Forgery, in the year 1787.*

THE following is a very extraordinary but not a solitary case: we have before met with instances of men being so weary of life, as to commit a crime, in order that their lives might be taken by the law! and thereby prevent themselves incurring the guilt of suicide.

On the fourth of September, 1760, Mr. Robert Scull, with several gentlemen, were playing at billiards, in Philadelphia; when captain Bruluman, late of the Royal American regiment, came into the room, and without the smallest provocation, levelled a loaded gun, which he had brought with him, and shot Mr. Scull through the body, just after he had struck his ball, for which murder he was tried and executed.

This desperate man had been brought up a silversmith, which business he left to enter the army, where he was an officer in the Royal American regiment, but was broke for being detected in counterfeiting or uttering base money.

He then returned to Philadelphia, and growing insupportable to himself, and yet unwilling to put an end to his own life, he determined upon the commission of some illegal crime, for which he would certainly be hanged by the law.

Having formed this design, he loaded his gun with a brace of balls, and asked his landlord to go a shooting with him, intending to murder him before his return, but the landlord being particularly engaged at home, escaped the danger. He then went out alone, and on the way met a man whom he was about to kill, but recollecting that there were no witnesses to prove him guilty, he suffered the man to pass. Afterwards going to a tavern, he drank some liquor, and hearing people playing at billiards in a room above that in which he sat, he went up-stairs, and entered into conversation with the players, in apparent good humour. In a little time he called the landlord, and desired him to hang up the gun.

Mr. Scull having struck his antagonist's ball in one of the pockets, Bruluman said to him, "Sir, you are a good marksman, now I'll shew you a fine stroke." He immediately took down his gun, levelled it, deliberately took aim at Mr. Scull (who imagined him in jest) and shot both the balls through his body.

He then went up to the dying man, who was still sensible, and said to him, "Sir, I have no malice or ill-will against you; I never saw you before, but I was deter-

mined to kill somebody, that I might be hanged, and you happen to be the man ; and I am very sorry for your misfortune."

Mr. Scull had just time left in this world, to send for his friends and make his will. He forgave his murderer, and, if it could be done, desired he might be pardoned. Bruluman died on the gallows, exulting in his fate.

The same volume from which we make the above extract, contains another of the like nature, and, if possible, more extraordinary. We shall, therefore, before we give the particulars of Samuel Burr, add this fatal precedent for the commission of the deed by which he sought his own death.

A youth of the name of David Williams, who, when about fifteen years of age, was one day, against his wish, detained from school, by his father-in-law, who greatly wanted his assistance on the farm. While thus employed, a log rolled on one of his legs, which injured it to such a degree, that it became nearly useless ; and by another accident he soon after hurt the other limb, so that he was rendered almost a cripple, before he had attained the years of man.

At these misfortunes he continually repined, blamed his step-father for keeping him that day from school, whereby he received his first injury ; and, mortified at his appearance among his comrades, some of whom, he said, ridiculed him, he became weary of the world, and determined to end his misfortunes with his life.

For this end, suicide and murder presented themselves. The first he thought the most eligible, but then it brought to his mind, the horrors of appearing, by his own violence, before God, he would not be pardoned ; and therefore he was induced to abandon that for the latter, which he thought would afford him a better excuse before the Almighty.

He familiarised himself to this act of desperation, by continually thinking of it ; so that in time it became a pleasing subject of contemplation. Nevertheless the consideration of the grief which it must occasion his mother, at times, almost unbent his resolution ; but then the idea

of its proving a sweet revenge on his father-in-law, bore down every other consideration.

Thus determined, the next step of this unhappy young man was, to select a proper subject on whom the deed should be committed. A grown person or a child was the question. The former, he concluded, must be under sin and guilt: therefore, by sudden death, and thus unprepared, his damnation might be chargeable to him, and he be double guilty; the latter, being innocent, he might avoid that charge, and therefore resolved upon murdering some child.

Now, the particular object for this horrid purpose, was the next thought; but he confessed, that though he thought of it more than six months, yet none occurred, until within five minutes of his committing his long-determined and bloody deed.

All the morning of the fatal day, he said that he felt an unaccountable and far stronger desire to commit murder, than before, to use his own words, "Something like hankering after fruit."

At this unfortunate moment he chanced to spy a little boy, named Ira, the son of Mr. Lane, a neighbour, gathering plumbs, and finding the parents absent, determined on seizing the opportunity and subject. He instantly seized a gun, fired at, and slightly wounded the child in the side of the abdomen. Finding his victim yet alive, he limped to him, led him to the house, placed him upon a bed, and took a station at the door.

Poor, devoted little Ira had strength left to get from the bed, in order to see "whether his father was coming to cure him." Williams answered, that his father would come by and bye, and bid him go to bed again, and lie still. Again the murderer listened to the dying groan of the boy, but finding his work incomplete, (horrid to relate) he took an axe, went to the bed, looked upon the innocent child, and while it held up its little hands for help, the wretch struck it on the head, and by repeated blows, chopped it in pieces.

After the horrid deed was done, he spoke of it with calmness, observing, that though he had often considered

the grief he should bring on his own mother, it never occurred to him the distraction it must cause her who bore the murdered child.

His whole intent was to get himself hanged. He supposed that the perpetration of the murder, under so many palliating circumstances, would excite the pity and forgiveness of the Almighty. He farther admitted in the account he gave of himself, that the example of a pious mother, and an affectionate and good brother had no influence over his determined purpose; that he had an evil temper, soured ever since his father-in-law took him that unhappy day from school; but that he had never committed a bad crime before. He was, in the eye of the law, considered a lunatic, and as such treated.

The immediate subject of the present enquiry, Samuel Burr, was a young man of fair character, but who laboured under so great a depression of mind, as to render him weary of life. He did not, however, seek death at the hands of the law, by shedding the blood of his fellow-creature; he pursued a still more effectual plan, as he conceived, knowing that the crime of murder under particular circumstances, has found mercy, but that of forgery is unpardonable. Yet, in this he did not succeed, for when his determination to die was known, the executive power would have him live, and he was respited from time to time.

That such was his fixed determination to die, will be proved by his address to the Bench, on receiving sentence; and that he was possessed of superior abilities, will be seen by the style of his speech.

Having been convicted of forgery, when the Recorder of London called him by name, in the usual manner, to know what he had to say, why sentence of death should not be passed upon him, he thus replied,

“ My Lord,

“ I am too sensible of the crime I have committed, and for which I justly deserve to suffer; not to know that I have forfeited my life, and I wish to resign it into the hands of Him who gave it. To give my reasons for this

would only satisfy an idle curiosity; no one can feel a more sensible heart-felt satisfaction in the hopes of shortly passing into eternity; wherein, I trust, I shall meet with great felicity. I have no desire to live; and as the jury and court in my trial thought proper to recommend me to mercy, if his Majesty should, in consequence thereof, grant me a respite, I here vow, in the face of heaven, that I will put an end to my own existence as soon as I can. It is death that I wish for, because nothing but death can extricate me from the troubles which my follies have involved me in."

We did not find any note of his being executed, therefore conclude, that in pity to his mental derangement, he finally received a pardon.

The last time he is named, was in these words, "Samuel Burr, the unhappy youth, who, under a depression of mind, abhorring the guilt of suicide, committed a forgery in order to suffer death by the law, was respited."

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## ROBERT WATT, and DAVID DOWNIE,

*Convicted of High Treason, at Edinburgh, with particulars of the Execution of a Traitor in Scotland.*

WE are now arrived at that period in the history of our country, when confederate bodies of disaffected men were pursuing a systematic course of treason, until government stretched out its powerful arm to crush them.

Watt and Downie were principals in the Scottish conspiracy, and were convicted of high treason. Their apprehension brought to light the particulars of the plot, to overthrow the constitution of Great Britain; and we shall, therefore, make a copious extract from their trial, which came on before the high court of justiciary, at Edinburgh, on the 3d of September, 1794, when Mr. Anstruther stated the case on the part of the crown. He began by observing, that such was the peculiar happiness

of this country, that we had been unacquainted with the law of treason for nearly half a century. It was not his intention, if he possessed the powers, of inflaming the passions of the jury against the prisoners : his object, was to give a plain, a dry narrative of the facts, and a succinct statement of the law.

The laws of treason were now the same in England and Scotland, and the duty of the subjects of both kingdoms should be the same. Scotland, in this instance, had reaped much benefit by the Union, as her laws of treason, previous to that period, were much more severe. The act of Edw. III. stated three distinct species of treason : 1. Compassing and imagining the death of the king ; 2. Levying war against him ; 3. Assisting his enemies. He would not trouble the court or jury with the two last : the single species of treason charged in the present case, was the compassing and imagining the death of the king ; which was defined by the conceiving such a design ; not the actual act, but the attempt to effect it. But the law which thus anxiously guarded the sovereign, was equally favourable to the subject : for it does not affect him until that imagination is fully proved before " men of his condition."

An overt act of treason is the means used for effectuating the purpose of the mind : it is not necessary to prove a direct attempt to assassinate the king : for the crime is the intention, and the overt act the means used to effect it.

He wished not that these sentiments might be held as the opinion of counsel : they were founded on the construction of the ablest writers, Chief Justices Foster, Hale, &c. and, whatever could be proved against the prisoners, which may endanger the king's person, was an overt act of high treason, in the language of the ablest writers.

After explaining more fully the different species of treason which applied to the present case, Mr. Anstruther said, he trusted that if he could prove any design whereby the king's person is in danger, that was an overt act ; if he was wrong, the judges would correct him.

He would now state the facts on which these principles

of law were to be laid. The present conspiracy was not that of a few inconsiderable individuals : it had risen indeed from small beginnings ; from meetings for pretended reforms. It had been fostered by seditious correspondence, the distribution of libellous writings, and had, at last, risen to a height, which, but for the vigilance of administration, might have deluged the country, from one end to the other with blood.

The proceedings of these societies, calling, or rather miscalling themselves Friends of the People, were well known ; their first intention was apparently to obtain reform ; but this not answering their purpose, they proceeded to greater lengths. He meant to detail the general plans and designs formed among the seditious, and then to state how far the prisoners was implicated in them.

The first dawning of this daring plan was in a letter from Hardy, secretary to the London Corresponding Society, to Skirving, the secretary to the Friends of the People here.

He writes, that as their petitions had been unsuccessful, they must use separate and more effectual measures. Skirving answered, and admitted the necessity of more effectual measures ; that he foresaw the downfall of this government, &c. Here also was the first notice of a convention ; a measure which it is no wonder they were fond of, when they saw its effects in a neighbouring kingdom, (France.) They meant not to petition parliament, but to proceed in their own plan, and supersede the existing government of the country ; and, in that case, the king's life was put in danger.

Soon after, a convention, a body unknown to the laws of this country, met ; and in this there would have been little harm, had their views been peaceable ; but their objects were avowedly unconstitutional, and their intention to carry on their plans by force, and thus virtually to lay aside the prerogative of the king.

This convention accordingly met, using all the terms, regulations, &c. adopted by the convention of another country, in which it might be said there was in reality

little harm, but it was surely a marked proof of their designs. They meant not to apply to parliament; for whenever that was mentioned, they proceeded to the order of the day. They resolved to oppose every act of parliament, which they deemed contrary to the spirit of the constitution, and were determined to sit, until compelled to rise by a force superior to their own.

The convention, indeed, was dispersed by the spirited conduct of a magistrate, (Provost Elder,) whose merit every one was forward to acknowledge, and to whose active exertions the country was so much indebted: but another convention was attempted to be called, who were to frame their own laws, and to be independent of the legislature; or, as they say, independent of their plunderers, enemies, and oppressors, meaning the King, Lords, and Commons: their resolutions will prove that they meant to create a government of their own, to do away the authority of what they called hereditary senators, and packed majorities; all which prove the intention of putting the king's life in danger.

But what, it may be said, is all this to the prisoner at the bar? who, surprising as it may appear, about two years ago wrote letters to Mr. Secretary Dundas, offering to give information as to certain designs of the friends of the people. These letters were answered by that right honourable gentleman with that propriety which has ever marked his public conduct. The prisoner then corresponded with the Lord Advocate, the particulars of which would appear, as his lordship was subpoenaed.

Since September 1793, this correspondence has ceased. Previous to that period, the prisoner was not a member of the society of friends of the people, nor of the British convention; but his accession since to its measures, and the calling of another convention, could be substantiated. The convention, indeed, though dispersed, did not cease to exist.

In fact, a committee of correspondence, of which the prisoner was a member, was instituted, the object of which was to carry into effect the views of the last British convention, and to elect delegates to a new one. Mr. Watt

attended this committee, and coincided in its measures, which were expressly to supersede the legislature.

The prisoner had moved for a committee of union; and another was appointed, called the committee of ways and means, of both which he was a member. This last was a secret committee, kept no minutes, was permanent, and empowered to collect money to support "the great cause." Mr. Downie was appointed treasurer, and it was to be the medium through which all instructions and directions were to be given to all friends of the people throughout the kingdom, and was to procure information of the number of those that would spare no exertions to support the great cause.

They corresponded with Hardy, respecting the calling of a new convention, which was to follow up the purposes of the old one; and, as the prisoner was present, he was in this way coupled with the British convention.

Their next attempt was to debauch the minds of the soldiers, and to excite them to mutiny; for which purpose a paper was printed, and circulated among a regiment of fencibles then at Dalkeith.

This paper, which was evidently seditious, would be brought home to the prisoner, for the types from which it was printed were found in his house, and a copy traced from him into the hands of a soldier.

The next charge to be brought against the prisoner, and the committee of which he was a member, was a distinct and deliberate plan to overturn the existing government of the country.

The plan proposed was this:—a fire was to be raised near the excise office, (Edinburgh,) which would require the attendance of the soldiers in the castle, who were to be met there by a body of the friends of the people, another party of whom were to issue from the West Bow, to confine the soldiers between two fires, and cut off their retreat; the Castle was next to be attempted; the judges (particularly the Lord Justice Clerk) were to be seized; and all the public banks were to be secured.

A proclamation was then to be issued, ordering all the farmers to bring in their grain to market as usual; and

enjoining all country gentlemen to keep within their houses, or three miles from them, under penalty of death. Then an address was to be sent to his Majesty, commanding him to put an end to the war, change the ministers, or take the consequences. Such was the plan of the committee of ways and means, as proposed by the prisoner.

Previous to this, it should have been mentioned, that all the friends of the people were to be armed; for which purpose, one Fairley was dispatched round the country to levy contributions, and disperse seditious pamphlets; for which purpose he got particular instructions from the prisoner.

Reports were spread through the same channel, that the goldsmith's hall association were arming, and that it was necessary for the friends of the people to arm also, for they would be butchered either by them or the French.

It would be proved, that the prisoner gave orders to Robert Orrock to make 4,000 pikes; and also orders to one Brown for the same purpose. These were to be used for completing the great plan; and Fairley's mission was to inform the country of these intended proceedings. Another representative body was also formed, called "collectors of sense and money," who were to have the distribution of the pikes, and to command the different parties. In one instance, a person had been desired to carry some pikes to the collectors; who made answer, that he could not do it, for the collectors were not to be trusted yet.

Mr. Anstruther then recapitulated shortly the different heads, and concluded an elaborate and most clear and distinct pleading, of more than two hours and a half, by requesting the jury to lay no further stress on what he had said, than it should be proved, as it was meant merely as a clue to the evidence which should be brought before them.

The first witness called was Edward Lauzon, a king's messenger. Upon being asked if he was employed last summer to search the house of one Hardy, in London,

Mr. Hamilton, counsel for the prisoner, objected to the question, and insisted that, before proving any other matter whatever, some direct overt act committed by the prisoner must be proved.

Mr. Anstruther answered, that, before proving the prisoner guilty of being concerned in a particular plot or conspiracy, it was surely necessary first to prove that such plot or conspiracy existed. In the trials in the year 1745, before any particular overt act was attempted to be proved against any of the accused, there was always evidence adduced to prove the existence of a rebellion.

The court over-ruled the objection. The witness then swore, that he seized several papers in Hardy's house, particularly a letter signed by one Skirving, and several others: also a printed circular letter, signed "T. Hardy, Secretary." These letters the witness produced.

Mr. William Scott, procurator fiscal for the shire of Edinburgh, gave an account of the seizure of Skirving's papers in December, 1793, and of the after-disposal of them. He produced several of these papers, particularly one intituled, "Minutes of debate in the general committee;" also several papers that were found in the lodgings of Margarot, Gerald, and Sinclair. Mr. Scott swore to his being present at the dispersion of the convention.

The letter by Skirving and Hardy being authenticated by Mr. Lauzun, who swore he found it in Hardy's possession, was then read.

John Taylor, of Fleet-street, London, was then called. He swore he was a member of the London corresponding society, and was acquainted with Mr. Hardy, who was secretary to that society. Being shewn several letters and papers, he believed them to be Hardy's hand-writing.—The society consisted of several divisions, about fourteen, he thought, in number; there were several committees, particularly a grand one, which consisted of a member from each division, a committee of secrecy, and a committee of emergency. The latter was formed in May last. He attended a general meeting of the society at the Globe Tavern, on the 20th of January last, about one thousand were present. So great was the crowd, that the floor

gave way, and the meeting adjourned to the assembly room, where the secretaries read the resolutions, which were afterwards printed. An address, founded on these resolutions, was afterwards carried by a shew of hands. One of the resolutions was, that the motions of parliament were to be watched over; and if troops were to be brought into the country, or the habeas corpus act suspended, &c. that force ought to be repelled by force.

The witness produced a copy of these resolutions, which he got from a person of the name of Moir, in the presence of Hardy. He saw several other copies about the room. The witness was also present at another meeting, held at Chalk Farm (about two miles from London) on the 14th of April last. The meeting was of the same nature as the former; there were about three thousand persons present, and, amongst others, Mr. Hardy.

Henry Goodman, clerk to Mr. Wickham, London, was present at the meeting at Chalk Farm, and heard the resolutions read. The resolutions now shewn to him were, as far as he recollected, the resolutions passed at the meeting. He understood that it was the intention of the society to arm themselves, to protect the members in the same way that the national convention of France had been protected by the citizens of Paris; that he heard this talked of in different meetings.

Alexander Atchison was a member of, and assistant secretary to the British convention, and wrote part of their minutes: he deposed, that the papers now shewn in court to him, he had often seen before; that he took down the minutes as accurately as he could; that he recollected Mr. Callandar making several motions in the convention; and particularly an amendment to a motion which was referred to a committee. This amendment was read: it related to the agreement in the convention to continue permanent, and watch over the motions of parliament, &c. &c. that he knew Mr. Watt, the prisoner; and was, together with him, a member of the committee of union. That committee met in January last, the convention being previously dispersed in December.—The purpose of this committee was to keep up a

spirit of union among the friends of reform, and that he was sent there by the division of Cannongate.

The great object of the committee was to obtain the same kind of reform sought for by Mr. Pitt and the Duke of Richmond, about twelve years ago. That he was a member also of the committee of ways and means which was instituted for the purpose of paying past debts, and to defray the expense of future delegates to another convention, to be held somewhere in England, which second convention was meant for the same purpose as the British convention, namely, obtaining the reform first proposed by Pitt and Richmond; that he has often had conversations with different persons on the subject of reform; that he recollected having seen a pike in the house of George Ross, in the presence of several blacksmiths, which was shaped like the head of an halbert. Being asked whether he ever gave a different account of what he had now sworn at any other place, he believed he never did; if he did it, it must be contrary to truth, and this he should say, though he should be guillotined for it.

Mr. W. Erskine, also counsel for the prisoners, here stopped the witness, who was removed. He said, that it was an established point in the law of Scotland, that a witness could not be affected by any thing he had before said relative to the present subject of his examination; nor could it hurt him in any degree.

Mr. Anstruther said, that this did not exist in the law of England.

The Lord President observed, that it appeared to him there was really a discrepancy in the law in this respect.

Mr. Anstruther here said, that to put an end to the dispute, and, as Atchison had conducted himself in such a manner, he would, so far from laying any stress on his evidence, request the jury to throw out of their minds every syllable he had used.

George Ross authenticated the minutes of convention, and other papers; knew the prisoner at the bar, and had seen him at his own house.

Mr. Sheriff Clerk deposed as to the pikes being brought from Watt's, and the fount of types, of which he had got

an impression taken in the precise state they came from Watt's house.

[Paper read—an address to the fencibles.]

James Sommeville, a printer, deposed as to the casting off the impression from the types.

William Watson, of Dalkeith, once saw Watt at his own house, but could not say whether the prisoner at the bar was the man. Remembered a fencible regiment in Dalkeith, which was about the time he met with Mr. Downie, who carried him to Watt's, to get a hand-bill about the fencibles, which he had heard of, and was curious to see, but could not get it there; and went to one Kennedy, on the South-bridge, from whence he received several copies.

The Lord Advocate said, that, except those (Downie and Stock,) against whom bills were already found, he meant to bring no other person to trial for treason.

Arthur M'Ewan, weaver, of Leith, a member of the British convention, and also of the committee of ways and means, of which last Watt was a member, deposed, that, at one of their meetings, Watt read a paper, proposing to seize the judges, bank, &c. to decoy the soldiers by a fire, &c. but did not know what was to be done with the persons seized, nor whether it was to be done in the day or night. Commissioners were to be appointed to take charge of the cash, but knew not what was to follow this. Deposed as to the proclamation to corn-dealers, and country gentlemen, and the address to the king to put an end to the war, &c. Watt asked him to accompany him to Orrock's, to whom he (Watt) gave orders to make pikes as fast as he could, as he had 4000 to send to Perth, besides what he had to distribute in Edinburgh. Orrock made a draft of one: a gentleman's servant asking what was their use, was told, that they were for mounting a gate. Knew that Fairley was sent into the country, and had visited a number of places; that he reported Paisley to be in a state of great readiness, but did not know what that meant. The witness disapproved of these proceedings, and would consent to nothing that would disturb the

peace, or shed the blood of his countrymen; and he thought the plan proposed would have that tendency. Watt produced, at one of the meetings, a paper containing what was called fundamental principles, which he knew but little of.

William Bonthorn was a member of the society of the friends of the people, but had resolved to withdraw, as things had passed he disapproved of. Watt, at one of their meetings, read a paper, of which he did not remember the particulars, as it confused him. The paper contained something about seizing the castle, raising an alarm by fire, &c. upon the supposition that numbers could be got to assist them. Remembered nothing of particular persons being intended to be seized; but thought the bank was mentioned; this paper frightened him much; it mentioned also the seizing of the guard-house; recollected no numbers that were mentioned to carry this plan into effect. M'Ewan shewed an opposition to it. The circular letter of the committee was written by Mr. Stock.

Mr. Sheriff Clerk deposed as to the finding sundry papers in Watt's house, one the drawing of a pike, and the paper sworn to by Atchison, in the sub-committee.

John Fairley, of Broughton, a delegate to the convention, deposed, that his constituents met after the dissolution of that body. Heard that pikes were making, and Watt informed him of this, or rather shewed him one. Watt said, that they were only intended for self-defence, and that none were to get them but those who applied and paid for them. Measures of government might drive them to despair, and cause bloodshed; but Watt said, he hoped there would be none, as the obnoxious or active against the cause of the people would be imprisoned.—The soldiers would be glad of freedom, and deputations might be sent them. Watt proposed to shew the arms to the collectors, which the witness objected to as hazardous. In going to the west country, a parcel was left for him by Watt, containing paper for distribution, which he left at Stirling, St. Ninion's, Kirkintulloch, Glasgow, Paisley, &c.

On his return to Edinburgh, he went to the committee of ways and means; that Watt, Downie, and M'Ewan

were there, to whom he reported the result of his journey. Returned the instructions to Watt ; they mentioned, he recollected, something about a plan, and Britain being free: Downie paid him the expences of his journey.

Dr. Forrest, at Stirling, gave an account of Fairley's calling on him, shewing him his written instructions, &c. In these instructions there was a blank, which he supposed was to be filled up "arms." Shewed him the figure of a weapon like an halbert, which was preparing for defence, and that these weapons could be furnished by a person who he understood was about Edinburgh. Something passed about arming the people, and disarming the soldiers.

Robert Orrock, smith, first heard arms mentioned in G. Ross's house in March last. In April, Watt applied to him to make a pike, and he brought one to Ross's, where Ross and other members of the committee were, and he left it at Watt's desire. In May, Watt desired him to make more of that pattern, and some of a different kind. While making them, a person (Martin Todd) called and shewed a form of a pike, which he refused to make. Brown also called, and told him he was making pikes for Watt, and that 1000 were wanted : but spoke of this as a secret, which alarmed the witness. The extent of his order was five dozen which were ordered by Watt, but paid for by Downie. He was told, if enquired about, to say they were for the top of a gate : never had an order for pikes before ; but had made one for his own defence, without being employed by any person.

Martin Todd, smith, deposed as to calling on Orrock, to enquire about the pikes.

William Brown, a smith, said one Robertson called on him to bespeak several spears of a particular shape, for Watt : and, at another time, he made fourteen spears for Mr. Watt, like mole spears. Recollected the conversation with Orrock, but did not say that such a number of pikes would be wanted.

John Fairley was re-examined, at his own desire. He recollected Watt saying, that the banks and public offices were to be seized. The most active against them were to

be imprisoned, and couriers sent to the country to announce this. The magistrates of Edinburgh were particularly spoken of.

Walter Miller, Perth, sent money to Downie, for relief of distressed patriots in the cause of reform; never had authority for supposing that the new convention had any object but reform by legal means.

Here the evidence of the crown was closed.

Mr. W. Erskine, junior counsel for the prisoner, said, that as the court had sat so long, he would not trouble them with many words. He would rest his defence upon the correspondence carried on between the Right. Hon. Henry Dundas, the Lord Advocate, and the prisoner, by which it would appear, that he had attended the meetings of the friends of the people, with no other view than a design to give information of their proceedings. A letter from the prisoner to Mr. Secretary Dundas was read, which stated in substance, that, as he did not approve of the dangerous principles which then prevailed in Scotland, and was a friend to the constitution of his country, he thought it is duty to communicate to him, as a good subject, what information he could procure of the proceedings of those who stiled themselves friends of the people. From an acquaintance with several of the leading men among them, he flattered himself he had this in his power; and then went on to mention some of the names of those leading men in Perth, Dundee, and Edinburgh. In the first of these places, he said, he had been educated, and had resided in the two last for a considerable number of years. It concluded with enjoining secrecy.

To this letter an answer was returned which was also read. It acknowledged the receipt of Mr. Watt's; and, after expressing a hope that things were not so bad as he represented, desired him to go on, and he might depend upon his communications being kept perfectly secret.

Another letter from Mr. Dundas to Mr. M'Ritchie, the prisoner's agent, was next read, in answer to one from Mr. M'Ritchie, requesting of Mr. Dundas what letters he had of the prisoner's. The answer bore, that all the

letters he had received from Mr. Watt, had been delivered to the Lord Advocate.

Mr. Sheriff Clerk authenticated the letter of Mr. Dundas.

The Lord Advocate being sworn in exculpation, he gave a distinct account of the transactions which he had had with the prisoner. He had conversed with him several times at his own lodgings; and he had at one time given him some information which he thought of importance. This was respecting the disaffection of some dragoons at Perth, which, upon enquiry, turned out to be ill-founded.

In March, 1793, his lordship said, an offer had been made to him to disclose some important secrets, provided he would give the prisoner 1000*l*. This he absolutely refused. However, some time after, the prisoner having informed him that he was much pressed for money to retrieve a bill of 30*l*. his lordship, who was then in London, not wishing he should be distressed for such a small sum, sent him an order for the payment of it. All this happened previous to the meeting of the convention; since which time, at least since October last, he did not recollect seeing or having any connection with the prisoner.

Mr. Hamilton contended, that the prosecutor had failed in bringing the most criminal part of his home to the prisoner. He dwelt long on the correspondence between Mr. Dundas and Mr. Watt. He said, the prisoner had not deserted the service in which he had engaged; but had not had an opportunity of exercising it until the very time he was apprehended.

He contended, that he was a spy for government; and it was well known that a spy was obliged to assume not only the appearance of those whose secrets he meant to reveal, but even to take a part in their proceedings, in order to prevent a discovery. He alluded to spies in armies, and mentioned a melancholy circumstance which happened to one last war, a gentleman with whom he had the honour of being acquainted. A spy in an army, he said, was obliged not only to assume the uniform of

the enemy, but even to appear in arms; and it would be exceedingly hard indeed, if taken in a conflict, that he should be punished for discharging his duty. He concluded with hoping the jury would bring in a verdict, finding the charges not proved.

The Lord President, after clearly defining the laws of treason, summed up the evidence, narrating and explaining the various parts, with much candour; leaving it entirely to the jury to return such a verdict as their judgment should direct.

The jury withdrew about half-past five o'clock in the morning, and in about five minutes, returned with a verdict—guilty.

The trial lasted nearly twenty-two hours.

The jury were upwards of forty minutes considering the case of Downie: the majority agreeing among themselves that he was guilty, they reconciled themselves to this verdict at last, by unanimously consenting to recommend him to mercy, which they did in strong terms.

Shortly after the following awful sentence of the court was passed upon these unfortunate men:

“Robert Watt and David Downie, you have been found guilty of high treason by your peers. The sentence of the court is, therefore, that you be taken from the place whence you came, from thence you shall be drawn on a sledge to the place of execution, on Wednesday, the 15th of October, there to hang by your necks till you are both dead; your bowels to be taken out, and cast in your faces; and each of your bodies to be cut in four quarters, to be at the disposal of his Majesty: and the Lord have mercy on your souls!”

The unfortunate prisoners received the dreadful sentence with much firmness and composure, and were immediately conducted to the castle.

Robert Watt was ordered for execution, but a respite came for David Downie: as soon as it was intimated to Downie, he started, as from a dream, and exclaimed, “Glory to God! and thanks to the King, for his goodness: I will pray for him as long as I live.” After which tears of gratitude flowed. He was transported for life.

About half past one o'clock on the 15th of October, the two junior magistrates, with white rods in their hands, white gloves, &c. the Rev. Principal Baird, and a number of constables, attended by the town officers, and the city-guard lining the streets, walked in procession from the council-chamber to the east-end of Castle-hill, when a message was sent to the sheriffs in the castle, that they were there waiting to receive the prisoner.

The prisoner was immediately placed in a hurdle, with his back to the horse, and the executioner, with a large axe in his hand, took his seat opposite him, at the further end of the hurdle.

The procession then set out from the castle, the sheriffs walking in front, with white rods in their hands, white gloves, &c. a number of county constables surrounding the hurdle, and the military keeping off the crowd. In this manner they proceeded, until they joined the magistrates, when the military returned to the castle, and the procession was conducted in the following order:

The city constables ;  
 Town officers, bare-headed ;  
 Bailie Lothian and Bailie Dalrymple ;  
 Rev. Principal Baird ;  
 Mr. Sheriff Clerk and Mr. Sheriff Davidson ;  
 A number of county constables ;  
**THE HURDLE,**  
 Painted black, and drawn by a white horse ;  
 A number of county constables.

The city-guard lined the streets to keep off the multitude.

When they had reached the Tolbooth door, the prisoner was taken from the hurdle, and conducted into the prison, where a considerable time was spent in devotional exercise.

The prisoner then came out upon the platform, attended by the magistrates, sheriffs, Principal Baird, &c. Some time was then spent in prayer and singing psalms ; after which the prisoner mounted the drop-board, and was soon launched into eternity.

When the body was taken down, it was stretched upon a table, and the executioner, with two blows of the axe, severed off the head, which was received into a basket, and then held up to the multitude, while the executioner called aloud, "There is the head of a traitor, and so perish all traitors."

The body and head were then placed in a coffin, and removed.

Never was any execution conducted with more solemnity and order. The procession advanced with slow step, and the prisoner exhibited a most melancholy spectacle. He held a bible in his hand; his eyes remained in a fixed posture, upwards, and he was not observed to make one movement, or cast a single glance upon the multitude. He was much emaciated, and his countenance so pale, that, while on his way to the place of execution, he appeared almost lifeless; but, when he came upon the platform, he seemed to be somewhat revived, and behaved himself, during the awful solemnity, with due resignation and humble fortitude.

The impression the situation had made upon himself, seemed truly astonishing, as those who had ever seen him before, declared, they could not have known him to be the same person. His appearance was dirty, muffled up in a great coat; and he shewed signs of peculiar agitation and remorse for the crime for which he was then going to suffer.

The surrounding multitude, during the execution of the awful proceeding, did not discover any other emotion than is usual upon occasions of any other executions. The town-guard, attended by the constables, lined the streets.

Robert Watt was born in the shire of Kincardine, and was, at the time of his execution, about thirty-six years old. He was the natural son of a Mr. Barclay, a gentleman of fortune and respectability; but like most other children of illegitimate parentage, he was brought up and educated under the name of his mother. He was, at about ten years of age, sent to Perth; where he received a very good education. Being sixteen, he engaged himself with a lawyer at Perth; but being of a religious dis-

position, he was disgusted at this profession, and soon withdrew from the desk of his master.

Soon after he went to Edinburgh, and engaged as a clerk in a paper-warehouse, where he lived happily and respectably for some years. His only complaint was a deficiency of salary.

Having a desire to share in the profits, as well as the toils, of the business, he wrote to his father, and prevailed upon him to assist him with some money, to enable him to procure a partnership with his master.

He then made proposals to the above purpose; these were, however, rejected by his employer. Being provided with money, he entered into the wine and spirit trade. His success in business continued very promising, until he was almost ruined by the commencement of the war. At this period, his acquaintance with the friends of the people commenced.

Many others engaged in this conspiracy were seized, and several convicted; among whom were the Rev. T. Fishe Palmer, William Skirving, Thomas Muir, Maurice Margoret, and Joseph Gerald, who were transported to Botany-bay: and numbers fled to the United States of America, to avoid the avenging arm of justice.

## ORIGIN OF THE GIBBET IN ENGLAND.

*With the Use of that dreadful Engine, in the religious Rites of the Disciples of Brama.*

It is well known that the gibbet, so often named, in this work, is now used in England, for carrying into effect, the final sentence of the law upon murderers; that their bodies may hang a dreadful warning to the passenger, not to stray from the path of honesty; yet, perhaps, few have enquired into its origin.

The gibbet we find of doubtful derivation. It is both an English word and a French word, implying the same meaning, "A post on which malefactors are exposed." We find this punishment recorded in Holy Writ, Joshua chap. viii. ver. 28, 29.

"And Joshua burnt Ai, and made it an heap for ever, even a desolation unto this day. And the king of Ai he hanged upon a tree, and as soon as the sun was down, Joshua commanded that they should take his carcase down from the tree, and cast it at the entering of the gate of the city, and raise thereon a great heap of stones, that remaineth unto this day."

Searching farther back into ancient history, we find from Martinius, the learned etymologist, that this mark of the grossest infamy which can be inflicted on a criminal, was not unknown to the Greeks. It is most probable, however, that we had the mode of punishment of the gibbet from the French; the people of that nation seldom taking any usage or custom from the English, at so early a period as the thirteenth century, when it was used here, and known by that name.

In the year 1242, says the historian, Matthew Paris, William De Marisco, a knight, was judicially condemned and ignominiously put to death. He was brought from the Tower to that penal machine, vulgarly called the gibbet; and, after he had breathed his last, was hung on one of the hooks, and being taken down after he was grown stiff, was bowelled: his bowels were burnt, and

his body being divided into four parts, the quarters were sent to four cities. This evidently answers to our hanging, drawing, and quartering, and has the intention of exhibiting a terrible spectacle to the people, just as our hanging a dead body in irons is meant to do. But it varies much, we observe, from gibbetting. The gibbet, in this case, serving only as a common gallows.

The same author, Matthew Paris, in speaking of the execution of two men, says, "*Paratum est horribile patibulum Londini quod vulgus gibitem appellat.*"

One of these criminals, after he was dead, was hung upon a gibbet, and the other was gibbeted alive, to perish by pain and hunger. These cases come fully up to the point in hand, as the body of the first was put upon the gibbet when dead, in order to be a permanent spectacle of terror; and the other was not to die, as probably being the most guilty, by the mere simple act of suspension, but by a more lingering kind of death.

About the same period of which Paris gives a history, the king of France ordered all clippers of the coin, *patibulis laqueatos, vento præsentrari*, that is, to be hanged, and then exposed to the wind; which, though irons be not mentioned, appears to be the very thing the English do now, and to have the same intention.

The first gibbet used in England, whereon to expose criminals, after death, by hanging, was in the reign of King Henry III. A. D. 1236.

We have shewn that the ancient writer above quoted, adduces an instance of a criminal being gibbeted alive, and left to perish by that miserable death; but the severing the hand from the body, and placing it above the carcase of the criminal, when gibbeted, the knife stuck through it with which the murder was committed, we believe to be exclusively Scottish; for we have not found it practised by any other nation.

We should hardly believe that in a part of our habitable globe individuals, worked into the frenzy of fanaticism, inflict upon themselves a temporary and more painful gibbetting; as though their torture would expiate their

supposed sins. Yet true it is, and we have just met an account of this frightful penance, which places its truth beyond the shadow of doubt: after reading accounts of the voluntary sacrifice of a widow of Malabar burning herself to ashes upon her husband's funeral pile, we may give credit to the horrid voluntary gibbetting of the same race of people.

The following account of this shocking spectacle has been well authenticated by several officers in the service of the East-India Company, who have witnessed this religious rite among the Gentoos.

There were three voluntary victims. The first was attended by a numerous procession, and preceded by music and dancers. According to the custom of Indian festivals, they were adorned with flowers, clothed in their best apparel, and attended by their relations.

They marched, or rather ran, round the apparatus several times, flowers being in the mean time strewed before them.

The engine of torture used upon this occasion was a stout upright post, thirty feet in height. At the bottom was a stage, and about half way towards the top another, on which two priests, or rather executioners, were mounted with drawn sabres, in place of books of religion, in their hands. Across the top of the post, or pole, was another, of about half the length and circumference, strongly lashed thereto with ropes. At each extremity were hooks of iron, somewhat resembling, but larger than those used by butchers in England, to hang up their meat in the shambles.

The sufferer was hoisted up to the executioners. The immediately proceeded to strip their prey of his robes, and then fixed the hooks into the fleshy part of his back, near the shoulder blades. The ropes affixed to these hooks, and tied to the transverse beam. Behind him two smaller ropes depended from the beam which received his great toes in separate loops. Over the penitent's head was suspended a kind of flat muslin canopy, with a narrow flounce, just sufficient to shade his

face from the sun, but not conceal him from the view.

Thus prepared he is slung into the air, by means of ropes tied at the opposite end of the pole, and hanged round to give full views to the surrounding crowd. The air was now rent with shouts of applause, almost to adoration. The trumpets sounded, the drums beat, and pateraroes fired. The traverse beam, turning upon a pivot, was slowly moved round, over the heads of the multitude. Notwithstanding the torture which the victims must feel, they supported it generally with patient firmness. The writer of the account now quoted, says he was an eye-witness to three persons submitting to this punishment on one afternoon.

The first sufferer, continues the narrator, was a young man, about twenty-four years of age. He got upon the scaffold with affected indifference; but when launched into the air, I could distinctly hear him send forth some agonizing yells. Still he persevered, and described the circle three times; he held a fan in one hand, and a bundle of cajans (leaves of the palmira tree) in the other), which he continued waving with seeming composure, until he made a signal, and thereupon was let down.

There was no difference in the mode of suspending the other two, excepting that one beat a small *taum taum* (great drum) the whole time; and that the second held a basket of flowers in one hand, and scattered them with the other among the spectators, who eagerly caught them. Either from the various accompanying noises, or from the superior fortitude of the two latter, I could not distinguish any expression of pain.

When let down their backs were rubbed with turmeric; and they were received by their friends with the highest marks of veneration and joy.

I was informed that these men were thenceforward esteemed the particular favourites of *Swamee*, (the Deity) and entitled to particular privileges. I was also present at this ceremony, at Madras, near the Black-Town. If

I was to relate the many singular customs of the disciples of Brama, of which I have frequently been a spectator, I should only gain credit from Asiatic travellers, who know from experience, the truth of Hamlet's observation, that "there are more things on earth, than are dreamt of in the philosophy of the many."

END OF VOL. II

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